

# Outcomes worse for immediate sequential bilateral cataract surgery

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(HealthDay)—Immediate sequential bilateral cataract surgery (ISBCS) is

associated with worse visual outcomes compared with short-interval (one to 14 days between operations) delayed sequential bilateral cataract surgery (DSBCS-14) and long-interval (15 to 90 days) DSBCS (DSBCS-90), according to a study published online June 30 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Julia P. Owen, Ph.D., from the University of Washington in Seattle, and colleagues compared refractive outcomes of 1,824,196 patients with bilateral visual acuity measurement who underwent bilateral surgery in a retrospective cohort study. Participants were categorized into three groups: ISBCS, DSBCS-14, and DSBCS-90.

The researchers found that after controlling for age, self-reported race, [insurance status](#), history of age-related macular degeneration, [diabetic retinopathy](#), and glaucoma, compared with the DSBCS-90 group, the uncorrected visual acuity (UCVA) of the first surgical eye was 0.41 letters higher and the best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was 0.89 letters higher in the DSBCS-14 group; the UCVA and BCVA were 2.79 and 1.64 letters lower, respectively, in the ISBCS group. For the second eye, the DSBCS-14 and ISBCS groups had UCVA and BCVA that were 0.79 and 0.48 letters higher and 1.67 and 1.88 letters lower, respectively, compared with the DSBCS-90 group.

"Unexpectedly, the DSBCS-14 group had similar but better [visual acuity](#) outcomes that were statistically significant compared with the DSBCS-90 group," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

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