

stretched by centrifugal tension from the ciliary body 14 through zonules 21 and capsular bag 16, its curvature flattens and its optical power contribution drops to plus two (+2) diopters. Thus, when the patient views distant objects, the ciliary body 14 is relaxed, the zonules 21 are placed under tension, the capsular bag 16 is stretched, the lens 22 flattens, and the required +17 diopters results. On the other hand, when the patient views near objects, the ciliary body 14 constricts, the tension on zonules 21 is released, and the centripetal forces in the soft polymer portion 23 cause portion 23 to assume its "memory" shape, thereby increasing the contribution of portion 23 to +5 diopters, and the total power of the lens 22 to +20 diopters.

The soft polymer of the molded accommodating portion 23 must be such that the built-in centripetal force can be overcome by the centrifugal force or tension generated by the ciliary body 14, zonules 21, and capsular bag 16, when the ciliary body 14 relaxes. A preferred material for portion 23 is silicone, although other known materials can also be used so long as they meet the required characteristics for IOL implants and are sufficiently soft to meet the force responsive requirement set forth in the foregoing.

In FIG. 5, there is shown a second embodiment of the lens of the present invention, wherein the posterior portion of the lens is made adjustable. For simplicity, those parts of the lens 45 corresponding to like parts in the lens 22 of FIGS. 3A and 3B have been given the same reference numerals. As can be seen in FIG. 5, lens 45 comprises an accommodating portion 23 and a posterior portion 24 of a fixed focus. On the posterior wall 46 of portion 24 there is attached, as by fusion or cement, an adjustable posterior portion 47 composed of a soft polymer such as silicone. An expansion channel 48 extends 360 degrees around the interior periphery of portion 47 in a manner similar to channel 28 in anterior portion 23, and is connected to access port 29, through valve means 32 and tube 49, which is separate from tube 31. Channel 48 is adapted to receive a viscoelastic material which alters the shape, and hence, the focusing power of portion 47. Thus, with the arrangement of FIG. 5, the "fixed" power of the combination of portions 24 and 47, i.e., the posterior portion of the lens may be adjusted before, during, or after implantation. The implantation of lens 45 within the capsular bag 16 is the same as for the lens 22 of FIGS. 3A and 3B.

From the foregoing it can be seen that the lens of the invention, when properly implanted, affords a desired amount of accommodation for the patient while also affording distance vision also. The lens, by being attached to the anterior wall of the capsular bag, undergoes changes in power in much the same way as the crystalline lens of the normal eye, and the forces acting on the lens are the same forces as are characteristic of a normal eye. With the arrangement, it is also possible to fine tune the focusing power of the lens to suit the patient's needs. In the implantation of the lens, very little invasion of the capsular bag is necessary, and possible damage of the ciliary body by direct connection thereto is avoided.

The foregoing has been for the purpose of illustrating the principles and features of the invention as embodied in preferred structures. Numerous changes or variations of structure may occur to workers in the art without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A lens implant for the eye, wherein the eye has a substantially intact capsular bag having anterior and posterior walls and a capsulorexis opening with edges in said anterior wall, said implant comprising:

a first lens portion of a deformable material, said lens portion having a periphery and anterior and posterior surfaces;

affixing means on said lens portion adjacent said periphery for affixing said first said lens portion to the anterior wall of the capsular bag whereby forces on the anterior wall are transmitted to said lens portion;

said affixing means comprising a shelf on said lens portion adjacent the periphery thereof, said shelf being coated with a pigmented polymer gel having a light absorption characteristic, said shelf being adapted to receive and underlie the inner surface of the anterior wall of the capsular bag adjacent the opening therein.

2. A lens implant as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first lens portion has an anterior periphery and an expansion channel extending around said interior periphery.

3. A lens implant as claimed in claim 2, and further including access means for injection of material into said expansion channel from outside said first lens portion.

4. A lens implant as claimed in claim 1, and further comprising a second lens portion affixed to said posterior surface of said first lens portion.

5. A lens implant as claimed in claim 4, wherein said second lens portion has a fixed focal length.

6. A lens implant as claimed in claim 4, wherein said second lens portion has a variable focal length.

7. A lens implant as claimed in claim 6, in which said second lens portion has an interior periphery with an expansion channel extending around said interior periphery.

8. A lens implant as claimed in claim 7, and further comprising access means for injection of material into said expansion channel from outside of said second lens portion.

9. A lens implant as claimed in claim 4, wherein said second lens portion comprises a first member having a fixed focal length and a second member having a variable focal length.

10. A lens implant as claimed in claim 9, in which said second member has an interior periphery with an expansion channel extending around said interior periphery.

11. A lens implant as claimed in claim 10, and further comprising access means for injection of material into said expansion channel.

12. A lens implant for the eye, wherein the eye has a substantially intact capsular bag having anterior and posterior walls and a capsulorexis opening with edges in said anterior wall, said implant comprising:

a first lens portion of a deformable material, said lens portion having a periphery and anterior and posterior surfaces;

affixing means on said lens portion adjacent said periphery for affixing said first lens portion to the anterior wall of the capsular bag whereby forces on the anterior wall are transmitted to said lens portion;

said affixing means comprising a flap on said lens portion adjacent the periphery thereof, said flap being adapted to overlie and contact the outer surface of the capsular bag adjacent the opening therein, said flap being coated with a pigmented polymer gel having a light absorption characteristic.

13. A lens implant as claimed in claim 12, wherein said first lens portion has an interior periphery with an expansion channel extending around said interior periphery.

14. A lens implant as claimed in claim 13, and further including access means for injection of material into said expansion channel from outside said first lens portion.

15. A lens implant as claimed in claim 12, and further comprising a second lens portion affixed to said posterior surface of said first lens portion.

16. A lens implant as claimed in claim 15, wherein said second lens portion has a fixed focal length.