

Illustrated in FIGS. 18 and 21 is a tool 35 which is particularly adapted for use in the insertion of, for instance, the intraocular lens assembly illustrated in the foregoing figures already described. Tool 35 includes first 36 and second 37 spring members which are joined together at one end, as is best illustrated in FIG. 18. Member 36 includes a first portion 38, a second portion 39 and a third portion 40. The free end of third portion 40 includes a gripping portion 41 having a groove 42 provided therein, as best seen in FIG. 21. Member 37 includes a first portion 43, a second portion 44 and a third portion 45. As with member 36, the free end of third portion 45 is provided with gripping portion 46 having a groove 47 provided therein, also as best seen in FIG. 21. Member 37 also includes a stub pin 47a to limit the relative inward movement between members 36 and 37. As is evident from inspection of FIGS. 18-21 grooves 42 and 47 are situated directly opposite each other and are spaced apart a sufficient distance so that a tab member 3 of an intraocular lens system may be securely received therebetween as is evident in FIGS. 20 and 21. Portions 40 and 45 of spring members 36 and 37, respectively, have attached thereto a generally elongated, U-shaped actuator member 48, including leg portions 49 and 50 and cross member 51. Member 48 is made of spring material with, as illustrated in FIG. 19 cross member 51 biased away from gripping portions 41 and 46.

As those skilled in the art will appreciate, member 48 may be replaced with, for instance, a single elongated member attached to one of third portions 40, 45 and having an L or T-shaped free end.

In operation, tab 3 illustrated in, for example, FIG. 1 is held in grooves 42 and 47 of gripping portions 41 and 46, as illustrated in FIGS. 20 and 21. The spring tension of members 36 and 37 in conjunction with the configuration of gripping portions 41, 46 and the configuration of tab 3 insure that tab 3 is securely held without any pressure having to be applied to holding portions 38 and 43 by the operating physician. With the cornea held back and the natural lens removed, the lens system is inserted in the eye so that tab pairs 3 and 13 capture the iris therebetween. Any further support means are also properly positioned at this time. With the lens system positioned, pressure is then applied to actuator member 48 which engages pin 7 at cross member portion 51, as is best seen at FIGS. 20 and 21, and thereby which forces pin 7 through the iris and into opening 14 provided in tab 13 to securely hold the lens system within the eye.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications of the artificial intraocular lens described herein can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For instance, the number of anterior and posterior tabs for positioning a pin perpendicular therein may be varied. Materials other than those described herein may be suitably employed for forming the artificial intraocular lens systems, the materials disclosed herein merely being illustrative. The dimensions of the artificial intraocular lenses may be changed as required by the operating physician and the patient to be fitted.

I claim:

1. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly into an eye, comprising:

first and second members each having a first, a second and a third portion, said first portion of said first member and said first portion of said second member being flexibly engaged, said second portion of said first member angularly extending from said first portion of said first member and said second portion of said second member angularly extending from said first portion of said second member and said second portion of said first member and said second portion of said second member overlapping each other, said third portion of said first member angularly extending from said second portion of said first member, said third portion of said second member angularly extending from said second portion of said second member, said third portions of said first and second members respectively terminating opposite one another in a spaced apart relationship and said third portion of said first member and said third portion of said second member having means formed thereon for gripping an intraocular lens assembly; and

actuating means for moving a securing pin carried by an intraocular lens assembly, said means being flexibly engaged to at least one of said members and extending therefrom to an area approximately between and above the terminus of the gripping portions of said third portions to engage said pin carried by said intraocular lens assembly when said assembly is held by said gripping means and thereby move said pin from a first position perpendicular to said means to a second position when pressure is applied to said actuating means.

2. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 1 wherein said first and second members are biased toward each other to secure therebetween a tab provided on said intraocular lens assembly without additional pressure being applied to said first and second members.

3. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 1 wherein said actuating means comprises a flexible U-shaped member having leg portions and a cross-member portion connecting said leg portions, said member further having its leg portions attached to said first and second members.

4. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 3 wherein said flexible U-shaped member has its leg portions attached to said third portions of said first and second members.

5. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 1 wherein said actuating means comprises a T-shaped member having its base engaged to one of said first and second members and its bridge positioned in the area between and above said gripping portions.

6. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 1 wherein said actuating means comprises an L-shaped member having its upright portion engaged to one of said first and second members and its base positioned in the area between and above said gripping portions.

7. A tool for inserting an intraocular lens assembly as described in claim 1 wherein opposing portions of said first and second members each have defined therein a longitudinal groove for accepting and holding a tab provided on said intraocular lens assembly.

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