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| **Study, Year** | **Aims** | **Literature Searches** | **Patients/Trials** | **Interventions** | **Results** | **Conclusion** | **Quality** |
| Powe,199491 | To define the effectiveness and risks of cataract surgery | MEDLINE 1975 to April 1991; reference lists | 83 single-arm observational studies and 7 cohort studies Median n=231 (17 to 22,791) | 22 studies: phacoemulsification; 58 studies: extracapsular extraction; 1 study: intracapsular extraction; 18 studies: mixed phacoemulsification and extracapsular extraction | Pooled % of eyes with 20/40 acuity or better: 95.5% (CI 95.1% to 95.9%) in patients with no ocular comorbidities and 87% (CI 89.3% to 90.2%) for all eyes Harms (pooled rates), % (CI): Endophtalmitis 0.13 (0.09 to 0.17) Bullous keratopathy 0.3 (0.2 to 0.4) Malposition/dislocation of IOL 1.1  (0.9 to 1.2) Clinical cystoid macular edema 1.4  (1.2 to 1.6) Angiographic cystoid macula edema 3.5 (2.9 to 4.0) Retinal detachment 0.7 (0.6 to 0.8) Posterior capsular opacification 19.7  (19.1 to 20.3) | Cataract surgery yields excellent visual acuity and is relatively safe regardless of method of surgical extraction | Good |
| Schaumberg, 1998133 | To obtain an estimate of the incidence of PCO and to explore factors that may influence its development | MEDLINE 1979 to 1996; reference lists | 49 studies (design NR); total n=NR | 27 studies: extracapsular extraction; 9 studies: phacoemulsification; 13 studies: mixed extracapsular extraction and phacoemulsification | Pooled rate, incidence of PCO:  1 year: 11.8% (9.3%-14.3%)  3 years: 20.7% (16.6%-24.9%)  5 years: 28.4% (18.4%-38.4%) | Visually significant PCO develops in more than 25% of patients undergoing extracapsular extraction or phacoemulsification with IOL within 5 years of surgery | Fair |
| Taban, 2005134 | To determine the reported incidence of acute endophthalmitis following cataract extraction and to explore possible contributing factors | Cochrane (database not specified); MEDLINE 1963 to March 2003; reference lists; textbook hand search; conference proceedings and abstracts | 215 studies (design NR); total n=NR | NR | Pooled rate, incidence of endophthalmitis: 0.128%  Rate 1963-1999: 0.109%  Rate 2000-2003: 0.265%  RR 2.44; CI 2.27 to 2.61 | Incidence of endophthalmitis associated with cataract extraction has increased over the last decade and may be linked to the increasing use of sutureless clear corneal incisions. | Fair |

**Abbreviations:** CI = confidence interval; IOL = intraocular lenses; NR = not reported; PCO = posterior capsule opacification; RR = relative risk.