

1 Optical performance of a monofocal intraocular lens designed to  
2 extend depth of focus.

3 Fidel Vega, PhD [1]; María S. Millán, PhD [1]; Miguel A. Gil, MD [2]; Nuria  
4 Garzón, OD, PhD [3]

5 [1]: Departament d'Òptica i Optometria, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya,  
6 BARCELONATECH, Spain

7 [2]: Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,  
8 Spain

9 [3]: Miranza IOA Madrid, Spain

10

11 Corresponding author:

12 Fidel Vega

13 Departament d'Òptica i Optometria. Violinista Vellsolà 37, 08222–Terrassa,  
14 Spain

15 Phone:+34 937398333

16 Fax: +34 937398301

17 E-Mail: fidel.vega@upc.edu

18

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## 24 **ABSTRACT**

### 25 **Purpose**

26 To test the performance of a new monofocal intraocular lens, intended to extend  
27 depth of focus (Tecnis® Eyhance, ICB00) (ICB-IOL), in comparison to a time-  
28 tested standard monofocal IOL (Tecnis® 1-piece, ZCB00) (ZCB-IOL) of same  
29 platform and material.

### 30 **Methods**

31 Assessment of the optical performance of the two IOLs was made *in-vitro* using  
32 an optical test bench with a model eye. The spherical aberration (SA),  
33 modulation transfer function (MTF) and the area under the MTF (MTFa) were  
34 obtained for pupil sizes ranging from 2.0mm to 5.0mm. Through-focus MTFa  
35 curves between -3.0D to +1.0D were obtained with three pupils (2.0mm, 3.0mm  
36 and 4.5 mm). Halo formation was also assessed for both lenses.

### 37 **Results**

38 The ICB-IOL had slightly worse optical quality at its best focus (i.e., lower MTF  
39 scores at distance vision) and more negative SA than the ZCB-IOL for pupils  
40 ranging from 2.0mm up to 3.0mm. The maximum of the through-focus MTFa  
41 curve of the ICB-IOL with a 2.0mm pupil, shifted to myopic defocus of -0.50 D.  
42 For larger pupils ( $\geq 3.5$  mm), there were no differences of SA, MTF scores and  
43 halo energy between the two lenses.

### 44 **Conclusions**

45 **The new ICB-IOL is a modified monofocal lens with 0.50D of additional power in**  
46 **its central 2mm zone and** more negative SA values, which induces a myopic  
47 shift of the maximum of optical quality and could improve intermediate vision.  
48 For pupils larger than 3.5mm, there were no differences between both IOLs.

49 The new ICB-IOL design would produce photic phenomena comparable to a  
50 standard IOL.

51

## 52 INTRODUCTION

53 Restoring vision by replacing the opacified crystalline lens with an intraocular  
54 lens (IOL) remains the main goal of cataract surgery. However, modern-day  
55 patients are in general more demanding and have higher expectations  
56 regarding visual quality, comfort and spectacle independence after IOL  
57 implantation. For that reason, cataract surgery is nowadays performed at  
58 increasingly earlier age and has become a consolidated option within the  
59 portfolio of refractive procedures.<sup>1</sup> This has prompted the constant evolution of  
60 IOLs' designs intending to achieve the best visual function possible, especially  
61 at intermediate and near distances, while maintaining perceived good image  
62 quality at a far distance. Designs currently available on the market are  
63 diffractive, refractive or combined refractive/diffractive ones, with low,  
64 intermediate or high addition power each providing distinct vision at different  
65 distances. With regard to the IOLs' foci feature, the lenses are commonly  
66 categorized as multifocal IOLs (i.e., bifocal and trifocal) and extended range of  
67 vision, the latter being commonly referred as extended depth of focus (EDOF)  
68 IOLs.<sup>2,3</sup> Effective extension of the depth of focus from distance to intermediate  
69 and near distances has been achieved with either, diffractive-based bifocal IOLs  
70 which combine low addition and chromatic aberration correction,<sup>4,5,6</sup> or more  
71 recently by means of a refractive-based IOL with alternate zones of different  
72 focus power and spherical aberration (SA).<sup>7</sup> Examples of these EDOF IOLs are  
73 Tecnis® Symphony (Johnson & Johnson Vision, Inc., Ireland) and Mini WELL  
74 (SIFI, Catania, Italy) respectively.

75 The Tecnis® Eyhance IOL, model ICB00 (ICB-IOL) (Johnson & Johnson  
76 Surgical Vision, Inc.) is a new monofocal refractive lens aimed at extending

77 depth of focus in comparison to a standard monofocal IOL. The manufacturer's  
78 goal with this new design is to offer the patient better visual acuity at  
79 intermediate viewing distances -that is required for many important daily tasks-  
80 while maintaining the quality and amount of vision the patient gets for far vision.  
81 In addition, and according to the manufacturer, the ICB-IOL should not produce  
82 more photic nuisance than a conventional monofocal IOL does,<sup>8</sup> although this  
83 feature has yet to be confirmed by clinical studies. The ICB-IOL incorporates a  
84 modified aspheric anterior surface that differs from that of its predecessor, the  
85 Tecnis® 1-piece, model ZCB00 (ZCB-IOL), an IOL that has been widely  
86 implanted throughout the world and yields well-known outcomes.<sup>9-12</sup>  
87 The aim of this paper is to evaluate in-vitro the optical performance of the new  
88 ICB-IOL by comparison to the standard monofocal ZCB-IOL.

## 89 **METHODS**

### 90 **Intraocular lenses**

91 Two monofocal IOLs produced by the same manufacturer (Johnson & Johnson  
92 Vision, Inc) were included in this study: Tecnis®-1 model ZCB00 (ZCB-IOL) and  
93 Tecnis® Eyhance, model ICB00 (ICB-IOL). Both lenses share the same  
94 platform, have a biconvex design and are made of the same ultraviolet-light  
95 absorbing hydrophobic material with a refractive index of 1.47 (at 35°). In  
96 addition, for a 6mm eye entrance pupil (5.3mm at the IOL plane),<sup>13</sup> they both  
97 produce negative 4th-order spherical aberration of  $-0.27\mu\text{m}$ .<sup>8,14</sup> The studied  
98 lenses had the same refractive power (20 D).

99 The ZCB-IOL is a standard monofocal lens with an anterior aspheric surface  
100 and a posterior spherical one. The optical and clinical performance of this lens  
101 have been extensively reported in previous works.<sup>9,10,12,14-17</sup>

102 The new ICB-IOL features a modified higher-order aspheric anterior surface  
103 intended to produce a continuous power increase from the periphery to the  
104 center of the lens. More concretely and according to a manufacture's specialist,  
105 whereas power in the ZCB-IOL increases from the periphery to the center of the  
106 lens, the power change in the ICB-IOL is continuous, but faster, with most of the  
107 change occurring in the central part of the lens.<sup>8</sup> The posterior surface of the  
108 lens is spherical.

#### 109 **Optical quality and halo assessment**

110 The optical performance of the IOLs was evaluated with a test bench that has  
111 been described in detail elsewhere,<sup>17,18</sup> and mainly consists of three parts: the  
112 illumination system, the model eye and the image acquisition system (Figure A).  
113 Since the ICB and ZCB IOLs share the same hydrophobic acrylic material of the  
114 Tecnis® 1-piece family of IOLs, their chromatic properties and spectral  
115 performances should be very similar, and then, we have considered green  
116 illumination (530nm±20nm) exclusively in our experimental tests. The green  
117 LED source illuminated either a four-slit test or a pinhole object for MTF  
118 measurements<sup>17,19</sup> and halo assessment<sup>20,21,22</sup> respectively. The model eye  
119 was formed by an artificial cornea and a wet cell with balanced salt solution  
120 where the IOLs were placed. A variable aperture diaphragm, placed in front of  
121 the artificial cornea, was used as the entrance pupil (EP) to control the size of  
122 the beam on the artificial cornea and hence, the level of corneal SA of the

123 wavefront that impinged upon the tested IOL (Fig. A). Additionally, the EP size  
124 also determined the beam size on the IOL plane (referred hereafter to as IOL-  
125 pupil).<sup>13</sup> The ratio IOL-pupil to EP was experimentally calibrated to be 0.56.  
126 From now on, all the pupil diameters are referred to the IOL plane.<sup>18,23</sup> The  
127 cornea was an achromatic doublet (Lambda-X, Belgium) that induced +0.175  
128  $\mu\text{m}$  of 4th-order SA for a 5.0mm IOL-pupil. The model eye with the IOL formed  
129 an image of the test object at its best focus that was projected through a 10X  
130 infinity corrected microscope onto an 8-bit CCD camera. All the optical elements  
131 in the setup were mounted in high-precision mechanical holders with three axis  
132 (X, Y and Z) micrometer-precision adjustments.

133 The modulation transfer function (MTF) of the IOLs placed in the model eye was  
134 measured at their best focus plane for distance vision. This focus plane was  
135 experimentally determined as the one that maximized the MTF for a 3.0mm  
136 IOL-pupil and was set as the origin for defocus (i.e., 0.00D).

137 The through focus MTF curves were obtained between -3.00D to +1.00D in  
138 0.10D steps with three IOL-pupil sizes: 2.0mm, 3.0mm and 4.5mm, the last two  
139 simulating photopic and mesopic illumination conditions in the clinic.  
140 Additionally, the optical quality was also evaluated with the area under the MTF  
141 metric (MTFa) given its potential significance as preclinical metric.<sup>14,17</sup> The  
142 MTFa was obtained by integrating the corresponding MTF values from 0 to 50  
143 cycles/mm as reported elsewhere.<sup>14</sup> The MTF was computed from the images  
144 of the four slit object, and more specifically, from the modulus of the Fourier  
145 transform of the line spread function of each slit (i.e., four MTF curves).<sup>19</sup> The  
146 mean and standard deviation of the MTF and MTFa were derived from this four

147 measurements. The higher the MTFa value, the better the optical quality of the  
148 IOL.

149 For the halo assessment, we determined the halo energy as illustrated in Figure  
150 B. The image provided by the CCD camera (linear scale of intensity), consisted  
151 of the sharp and intense image of the pinhole (referred from now on as core)  
152 surrounded by a faint halo (Figure BA). When the image was displayed in  
153 logarithmic scale of intensity (Fig. BB),<sup>16, 21, 22, 24</sup> which is a closer representation  
154 of how the human eye would see the image, the halo became quite evident.

155 In the image in logarithmic scale, we computed the log-transform energy of the  
156 region of interest as:<sup>16, 18, 25</sup>

$$157 \quad E_R = \sum_{n \in R} \log(e(n)) \quad \text{Eq.}$$

158 (1)

159 where  $R$  stands for either the total image, or the core region - inside the dash  
160 black circle in Fig. BB-, or the halo –outside the dash black circle in Fig. BB- ( $R$ =  
161 total, core or halo),  $n$  is a pixel contained in the  $R$  region, and  $e(n)$  is the pixel  
162 gray level. For each pupil size, the log-transform energy obtained with Eq. 1 in  
163 the core and halo regions ( $E_{\text{core}}$  and  $E_{\text{halo}}$  respectively) were compared to  $E_{\text{total}}$   
164 and expressed as percentages. This normalization is necessary for quantitative  
165 comparison of the pinhole images recorded with different pupil sizes and thus  
166 with different energy. Moreover, since the human eye responds to differences of  
167 energy, we have also computed the non-normalized differences between the  
168 core energy and the halo energy, which estimates the weight of the halo in the  
169 image: the larger the difference of energy the lower the weight of the halo. The  
170 uncertainty in the computed values of the energy was basically due to the  
171 precision in the determination of the size of the core. Assuming an uncertainty



172 of  $\pm 1$  pixel in the diameter of this region of interest, the highest error  
173 corresponded to the lower IOL-pupil (2.0mm) and was 5% for both IOLs.

#### 174 **Wavefront aberrations measurement**

175 The high-order wavefront aberrations of the IOLs were measured from IOL-  
176 pupils ranging from 2.0mm to 5.0mm as reported in Reference 26, modifying  
177 the optical configuration of the test bench. As shown in the layout of Fig. C, the  
178 artificial cornea was removed from the setup and the microscope and CCD  
179 camera were replaced by an aberration free collimating lens and a Shack-  
180 Hartmann wavefront sensor (HASO 76, Imagine Optics, France). This sensor  
181 has an array of 76x100 microlenses, thus providing an excellent spatial  
182 resolution during wavefront sampling, and a maximum aperture size of 8.7x11.4  
183 mm. Wavefront fitting was made with a linear combination of 32 Zernike  
184 polynomials from 3rd to 6th order. Each wavefront was measured three times to  
185 obtain the mean value and standard deviation of the Zernike coefficients.

186 Finally, we also computed the wavefront aberrations of the achromatic lens  
187 used as artificial cornea. They were obtained versus IOL-pupil size by ray  
188 tracing simulation using a dedicated software (Zemax OpticStudio, Zemax  
189 Europe Ltd) and the lens parameters (curvature radius, thickness and refraction  
190 index) provided by the manufacturer.

## 191 **RESULTS**

### 192 **MTF measurements**

193 Figure 1 shows the influence of pupil size on the MTFs of both IOLs. For IOL-  
194 pupil sizes of 2.0mm and 3.0mm, the MTF curves of the ZCB-IOL were nearly  
195 diffraction limited, while the ones of ICB-IOL were lower, indicating worse

196 optical quality. For larger pupils, the MTF curves of both IOLs tended to  
197 decrease and get closer. Overall for both IOLs, it is worth remarking the close  
198 coincidence of their curves in the range of spatial frequencies of primary interest  
199 (0 to 50 cycles/mm).<sup>14,17</sup>

200 The MTFa metric versus IOL-pupil size is shown in Figure 2. For pupil sizes  
201 lower than 3.5mm, the ICB-IOL had smaller MTFa than ZCB-IOL. For larger  
202 pupils, the MTFa values of both IOLs were similar within the experimental  
203 uncertainty, and tended to decrease, the later showing the deleterious influence  
204 that the increase of the pupil size has on optical quality.

205 The through focus MTFa curves of the ZCB-IOL and ICB-IOL, obtained with  
206 IOL-pupils of 2.0mm, 3.0mm and 4.5mm, are shown in Figure 3. Given the  
207 monofocal design of both lenses, the curves showed just one peak of maximum  
208 MTFa that corresponds to the best focus of the lenses for distance vision.

209 For both IOLs, the smaller the pupil, the wider the MTFa peak, proving that  
210 regardless of the IOL design, there was an effect of focus extension produced  
211 as a consequence of reducing the pupil size. With a 2.0mm IOL-pupil, the  
212 maximum MTFa of the ZCB-IOL was higher than the one of the ICB-IOL  
213 ( $45.69 \pm 0.23$  versus  $40.61 \pm 0.49$ ) and very interestingly, there was a myopic shift  
214 of -0.40D in the position of the MTFa peak of the ICB-IOL (Fig. 3A). Even at this  
215 position, however, the MTFa value reached by the ICB-IOL was not higher than  
216 that of ZCB-IOL. With a 3.0 mm IOL-pupil (Fig. 3B), the maximum MTFa of the  
217 ZCB-IOL was still slightly higher ( $46.11 \pm 0.58$  versus  $42.79 \pm 0.77$  in the case of  
218 the ICB\_IOL) while such differences between both IOLs practically vanished

219 with the 4.5mm IOL-pupil (Fig. 3C). With this pupil, the MTFa peak of both IOLs  
220 shifted slightly towards hyperopic defocus (+0.20D).

### 221 **Wavefront Aberration**

222 The cornea of our model eye induced positive 4th-order spherical aberration  
223 (SA) (Figure 4) to mimic the natural aberration of the human cornea. The  
224 maximum SA was +0.175  $\mu\text{m}$  for a 5.0mm pupil at the IOL plane. Although this  
225 value is somehow lesser than the amount reported on average for the human  
226 cornea, +0.27  $\mu\text{m}$  for a 6.0mm entrance pupil (5.3mm at the IOL plane),<sup>27</sup> Wang  
227 et al.,<sup>28</sup> found that 15.4% of their patients had corneas with SA values smaller  
228 than +0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

229 The most significant high-order aberration found with both IOLs versus pupil  
230 size was negative 4th-order SA (Figure 4), logically intended to compensate for  
231 the positive corneal SA. With the 3.0mm IOL-pupil, the wavefront aberration of  
232 the ICB-IOL also showed small contributions of positive 6th-order (0.028 $\pm$ 0.001)  
233 and negative 8th-order SA (-0.018 $\pm$ 0.001). The rest of high-order aberration  
234 terms were negligible small for all pupil sizes.

235 For IOL-pupil sizes lower than 3.5mm, the ICB-IOL lens had SA values more  
236 negatives than ZCB-IOL. For instance, with a 2.0mm IOL-pupil the SA of ICB-  
237 IOL is, in absolute value, 3.7 times larger than the SA of ZCB-IOL (-  
238 0.056 $\pm$ 0.003  $\mu\text{m}$  versus -0.015 $\pm$ 0.003  $\mu\text{m}$  respectively). For larger pupils both  
239 lenses had very similar SA values.

### 240 **Halo assessment**

241 The images of the pinhole as a function of the pupil size, obtained with the  
242 model eye including either ZCB-IOL or ICB-IOL, are shown in logarithmic scale  
243 in Figure 5 since it better approaches human perception. With both lenses,  
244 halos around the pinhole image could be hardly observed for IOL-pupil sizes up  
245 to 3.0mm, but became apparent for larger IOL-pupil sizes of 4.0mm and 5.0mm.

246 The relative energy of the core and halo to total energy (all calculated with Eq.  
247 1), are shown versus IOL-pupil size in Figures 6(A) and 6(B) respectively. On  
248 the other hand, Figure 6(C) shows the non-normalized energy difference  
249 between the core and halo regions.

250 In the case of the ZCB-IOL and for IOL-pupils ranging from 2.0mm up to 3.5  
251 mm, a constant, high fraction of the energy ( $\approx 60\%$ ) was correctly focused on the  
252 core, while with the ICB-IOL we found less energy correctly focused.  
253 Conversely, there was more energy spread to the halo with the ICB-IOL. Not  
254 surprisingly, ICB-IOL showed in this pupil range, smaller values of the energy  
255 difference than ZCB-IOL (Fig. 6(C)), indicating images with more significant  
256 halos with ICB-IOL. This trend could already be acknowledged from Fig. 5  
257 where the halo for the 2.0mm IOL-pupil with the ICB-IOL was clearly more  
258 visible and larger than that of ZCB-IOL, but was only slightly more visible and  
259 larger for the 3.0 mm IOL-pupil. The differences between the two IOLs tended  
260 to reduce for increasing pupils. As such, for mesopic and scotopic pupils  
261 ( $\geq 4.0\text{mm}$ ), both IOLs exhibited very close results. The halo energy for both IOLs  
262 increased with pupil size (Fig. 6(B)), reaching similar maximum values for the  
263 5.0mm IOL-pupil:  $71.9 \pm 1.8\%$  (ZCB-IOL) and  $68.5 \pm 1.7\%$  (ICB-IOL). Closely  
264 related, the smaller value of energy difference occurred for this IOL-pupil (Fig.  
265 6(C)), which accounts for the significant halos observed in Fig. 5 with both IOLs.

266 A summary of the results versus IOL-pupil size is presented in Table 1.

## 267 **DISCUSSION**

268 To our knowledge, this is the first paper that studied *in-vitro* the optical  
269 performance of the new monofocal Tecnis® Eyhance model ICB00 (ICB-IOL)  
270 whose optical design aims at extend the DOF in comparison to a standard  
271 monofocal lens, to provide better intermediate vision, while keeping similar  
272 distance vision and comparable incidence of photic phenomena (glare and  
273 halo). A meaningful comparison has been carried out by choosing the Tecnis®  
274 1-piece model ZCB00 (ZCB-IOL) as the standard monofocal lens to compare  
275 with, because both IOLs, manufactured by the same company, share basic  
276 features such as platform and material. Therefore, the fundamental difference  
277 between both designs is the modified aspheric anterior surface of the ICB-IOL  
278 that is referred by the manufacturer as a continuous higher-order aspheric  
279 surface. We have found that this modification in the optical design of the ICB-  
280 IOL has a measurable impact on the optical quality (Figures 1, 2 and 3), the SA  
281 (Fig. 4) and halo energy (Fig. 6) for relatively small IOL-pupil sizes (below  
282 3.5mm). In contrast, for larger IOL-pupils (equal and above of 3.5mm) the  
283 results of the new ICB-IOL tend to be very similar to the standard monofocal  
284 ZCB-IOL.

285 The negative values of SA versus pupil obtained with the ZCB-IOL (Fig. 4) are  
286 in good agreement with previous results reported with multifocal and EDOF  
287 Tecnis® IOLs that share the same aspheric design.<sup>26,29,30</sup> The measured  
288 experimental values of  $-0.28 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{m}$  (ZCB-IOL) and  $-0.27 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{m}$  (ICB-IOL)  
289 for 5.0mm IOL-pupil, would fully compensate for the  $+0.27 \mu\text{m}$  value of the

290 corneal SA of a representative average human cornea.<sup>27,28</sup> Interestingly, we  
291 have found differences between the SA values of both IOLs for IOL-pupils lower  
292 than 3.5mm and it is in this range of small pupils where worse MTF curves (Fig.  
293 1) and lower MTFa values (Fig. 2) are obtained for the new ICB-IOL in  
294 comparison to ZCB-IOL. Moreover, comparing the through focus MTFa curves  
295 of the two IOLs (Fig. 3), the largest differences occurred with the smallest IOL-  
296 pupil (2.0mm). For this pupil in particular, the MTFa curves of both IOLs are  
297 considerably broader, proving that small pupils are an effective strategy to  
298 expand DOF in general,<sup>31</sup> although they require good lighting. More importantly,  
299 in comparison to the standard ZCB-IOL, the MTFa curve of the new ICB-IOL  
300 showed a myopic shift of -0.40D (Fig.3A). To explain this result, we recall that  
301 for small pupils the ICB-IOL induced more negative SA than the standard ZCB-  
302 IOL, and they were larger (in absolute value) than the SA of the cornea (Figure  
303 4). Then, the model eye with the ICB-IOL must have a remaining negative SA  
304 as a result of the insufficient compensation between the positive and the  
305 negative SA values of the cornea and ICB-IOL respectively. In a converging  
306 optical system with negative SA, the paraxial rays have more dioptric power  
307 than the peripheral rays. Thus, in eyes with relatively large pupil (e.g. mesopic  
308 illumination conditions) and negative SA, the emmetropia condition is achieved  
309 when the circle of least confusion lies on the retina, with the paraxial and  
310 peripheral rays focused in front of and behind the retina respectively. Since the  
311 eye focusing with small pupils relays only in the paraxial rays, there would be a  
312 myopic shift of the best focus condition, as experimentally observed in the case  
313 of the ICB-IOL (Fig. 3A). This result confirms the power increase from the  
314 periphery to the center in the design of the new ICB-IOL. More concretely and in

315 comparison to the standard ZCB-IOL, there is an additional power close to  
316 +0.50D in the central 2.0mm region of the lens, which is based on the larger  
317 negative SA of the ICB-IOL with this IOL-pupil (Figure 4). Since the differences  
318 between the SA of the two IOLs decreased from 2.0mm to 3.0mm and were  
319 practically equal for IOL-pupils larger than 3.5mm, one can conclude that the  
320 aspheric curvature of the ICB-IOL originates the +0.50D additional power in the  
321 central 2.0 to 3.0mm region and decreases towards the periphery of the lens.  
322 This is the basis for the intermediate performance and extension of the depth of  
323 focus with this new design, which could improve intermediate vision, especially  
324 in high light conditions and/or small pupils.

325 Several studies have additionally shown that higher-order aberrations,  
326 particularly SA, helps to increase the DOF.<sup>32,33</sup> However, the addition of SA to  
327 increase the DOF has the potential drawback of lowering the visual acuity  
328 (VA).<sup>34</sup> In the clinic, Rocha et al.,<sup>35</sup> and Marcos et al.,<sup>34</sup> found larger DOF in  
329 patients implanted with spherical IOLs (i.e., eyes with higher SA) than in  
330 patients with aspheric IOLs that reduced the total SA of the eye. Other studies  
331 however, failed to find statistically significant differences in DOF between  
332 patients implanted with aspheric IOLs with negative SA, aspheric aberration-  
333 free IOLs, and spherical IOLs.<sup>36,37</sup> Neither did XianHui et al. find differences in  
334 the DOF of eyes with different amounts of 4th-order corneal SA implanted with  
335 the same aberration free IOL model.<sup>38</sup> More recently, Belluci et al.<sup>39</sup> reported, in  
336 comparison to an aspheric monofocal IOL, greater depth of focus with the Mini  
337 Well<sup>®</sup> IOL, a lens based on alternating positive and negative SA in the central  
338 3.0mm optical zone. Camps et al.<sup>26</sup> measured large negative 4th-order (-  
339  $0.13\pm 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ ) and positive 6th-order ( $0.12\pm 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ ) SA within this 3.0mm

340 zone of the Mini Well IOL. Since the experimental SA values of the ICB-IOL are  
341 much smaller (Fig. 4), it can be ruled out that the DOF expansion with this new  
342 monofocal lens be based on a SA design.

343 With regard to the differences on optical quality between the ZCB-IOL and ICB-  
344 IOL accounted by the MTFa metric and its implication in the clinic, Alarcon et  
345 al.<sup>14</sup> found a high correlation between the MTFa metric and clinical VA of  
346 pseudophakic patients. The results led the authors to suggest that the MTFa  
347 metric could predict clinical average VA, thus becoming a preclinical metrics.  
348 More recently, Vega et al.<sup>17</sup> stated that the estimation of achievable VA, as non-  
349 linear function of variable MTFa, showed limiting behavior for IOLs with larger  
350 MTFa values, i.e. lenses with higher imaging quality. As a consequence,  
351 beyond an MTFa threshold, VA tended asymptotically to the best value clinically  
352 achieved in the patients, and any further increase in the imaging quality of an  
353 IOL (i.e., MTFa values above the threshold) did not translate into VA  
354 improvement. With the 3.0mm IOL-pupil, the best MTFa of both IOLs (ICB-  
355 IOL= $43.15\pm 0.43$ , ZCB-IOL= $46.10\pm 0.33$ ) were far larger than the reported  
356 threshold for the MTFa ( $\approx 20$ ),<sup>17</sup> and then, one would not expect that the best VA  
357 with the new ICB-IOL model be worse than with the standard ZCB-IOL.  
358 Nevertheless, clinical studies are needed to either confirm or refute this  
359 prediction.

360 Concerning the halos, the ICB-IOL lens showed on the optical bench, for  
361 mesopic and scotopic pupils ( $\geq 4.0$ mm), similar values of energy correctly  
362 focused on the core region (or conversely spoiled in the halo) compared to the  
363 standard monofocal (Fig. 6). Thus, the new design of the ICB-IOL is more likely  
364 to induce similar level of photic phenomena, if any, as to the ZCB-IOL, although



365 clinical studies, yet to be performed, are mandatory to confirm or refute this  
366 prediction.

367 Regarding the differences found in the spherical aberration (SA) within the small  
368 central area between the two IOLs, Taketani and Hara,<sup>40</sup> have shown that SA  
369 was negatively correlated with dioptric power in the case of the Tecnis ZA9003  
370 aspheric IOL (a lens made of the same material and with the same optical  
371 design as the Tecnis ZCB00 IOL of our study). Then, additional work is still  
372 necessary to check if the differences of SA we have found between ICB00 and  
373 ZCB00 with lenses of +20.0D, are maintained for other dioptric powers. This  
374 would be especially relevant in the case of low and high dioptric values because  
375 it could provide very valuable information on the performance of the new ICB00  
376 design in the case of highly myopic and hyperopic eyes respectively.

377 Finally, ~~our results have shown that the ICB-IOL is a modified monofocal lens~~  
378 ~~with 0.50D of additional power in the central 2 mm zone.~~ With regard to the  
379 potential impact that this new design may have on near vision, one could argue  
380 that pupil miosis would occur when looking at near, a situation under which the  
381 ICB-IOL has shown the capability, in the optical bench, of producing a myopic  
382 shift related to the power increase on the central region of the lens. However,  
383 near tasks at 30-40 cm that demand good quality of vision require add powers  
384 of 3.0-2.5D, which are significantly larger than the maximum additional power  
385 ( $\approx 0.50D$ ) that the lens is able to provide. ~~Furthermore, despite the potential to~~  
386 ~~extend the range of vision of the ICB-IOL, it is yet a monofocal design.~~  
387 Preliminary clinical results (N. Garzón, private communication) evidences that  
388 the ICB-IOL defocus curve is slightly broader than the one of standard ZCB-  
389 IOL, but still has the typical 'Λ-like monofocal shape' with a single visual acuity

390 (VA) peak for distance vision (0.0D defocus). Thus, it would not be realistic to  
391 expect that the ICB-IOL could compete in near vision with multifocal IOLs that  
392 provide the pseudophakic patient with additional VA peak at near

393 To summarize, according to our findings the design strategy of the new ICB-IOL  
394 to extend DOF is based on a continuous power increase towards the center of  
395 the lens as a result of the increased amount of negative SA that occurs in the  
396 central region of the lens (IOL-pupils lower than 3.5mm). The halos measured  
397 on the optical bench are comparable to a standard monofocal IOL.

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522 **Figure Captions**

523 Figure 1. MTF curves for IOL-pupil sizes ranging from 2.0mm to 5.0mm at the  
524 best focus of the (—) ZCB-IOL and (—) ICB-IOL. The inserts show the MTF  
525 curves in the range of spatial frequencies (0 to 50 cycles/mm) used to compute  
526 the MTFa metric.

527 Figure 2. MTFa values (average± standard deviation) for IOL-pupil sizes ranging  
528 from 2.0mm up to 5.0mm of the (●) ZCB-IOL and (●) ICB-IOL. These values  
529 were obtained upon integration of the corresponding MTF curves between 0 to  
530 50 cycles/mm.

531 Figure 3. Through focus MTFa curves of the (—) ZCB-IOL and (—) ICB-IOL  
532 obtained with IOL-pupil sizes of (A) 2.0mm, (B) 3.0mm and (C) 4.5mm. The  
533 arrows indicate the myopic (A) and hyperopic (B) shifts of the MTFa peaks.

534 Figure 4. 4th-order SA versus IOL-pupil size obtained separately for the artificial  
535 cornea (black bars), and each IOL: ZCB-IOL (red bars) and ICB-IOL (blue bars).

536 Figure 5. Images of the pinhole object formed by the model eye including either  
537 ZCB-IOL or ICB-IOL at their best focus for increasing pupil sizes. The images  
538 are displayed in logarithmic scale of intensity.

539 Figure 6. Relative core (A) and halo energy (B) to total energy (all calculated  
540 with Eq. 1) and (C) non-normalized energy difference between core and halo,  
541 versus IOL-pupil size, obtained with the ZCB-IOL (red bars) and ICB-IOL (blue  
542 bars).