

CASE REPORT OPEN ACCESS

Dogs

# Novel Combined Approach for Vision-Preserving Iridociliary Tumour Excision in a Small-Breed Dog: Contralateral Iris Excision With En-Bloc Scleral Resection

Jae-Ik Kang<sup>1,2</sup>  | Jeong-Eun Yeom<sup>1</sup> | Kyung-Mee Park<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, Ulsan S Animal Medical Center, Ulsan, Republic of Korea | <sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Veterinary Ophthalmology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju, Republic of Korea**Correspondence:** Kyung-Mee Park ([parkkm@cbu.ac.kr](mailto:parkkm@cbu.ac.kr))**Received:** 5 September 2025 | **Revised:** 16 January 2026 | **Accepted:** 31 January 2026**Keywords:** canine iridociliary tumour | contralateral approach | en-bloc scleral resection | globe-sparing technique | ocular neoplasia | partial iridectomy | small-breed dogs | veterinary ophthalmology | vision-sparing surgery

## ABSTRACT

This case report presents the first application of a novel combined surgical approach incorporating contralateral iris excision with en-bloc scleral resection for managing a recurrent iridociliary epithelial tumour in a small-breed dog. A 7-year-old castrated male Chihuahua (3.2 kg) presented with a recurrent iridociliary tumour following initial biopsy. Vision-preserving surgery was performed using an innovative combined contralateral and postero-anterior approach with bipolar cautery for haemostasis. The technique involved initial precise excision of tumour-bearing iris tissue through corneal paracentesis positioned opposite to the tumour location using miotic agents for accurate tumour margin assessment, followed by en-bloc excision of the tumour with adjacent scleral tissue via a stepped scleral flap approach. En-bloc tumour excision with intended 2–3 mm margins, including adjacent scleral tissue, was performed, though histopathology revealed incomplete excision at some borders. The tumour was confirmed as a highly pigmented iridociliary epithelial tumour with minimal scleral invasion. Postoperative complications included transient anterior uveitis and mild hyphema, both resolving within 4 weeks. At 3-month follow-up, the patient maintained functional vision despite developing incipient cataract and suspected partial retinal detachment. This novel combined contralateral approach with en-bloc scleral resection represents the first successful vision-sparing procedure specifically designed and reported in a small-breed dog, offering a promising alternative to conventional approaches and addressing the surgical space limitations encountered in small-breed patients.

## 1 | Introduction

Intraocular tumours arising from the anterior uveal tract, particularly the iris and ciliary body, represent a clinically significant group of neoplasms in dogs that can profoundly impact ocular function and patient quality of life (Camp et al. 2019; Dubielzig et al. 1998). Primary iridociliary epithelial tumours and melanocytic neoplasms constitute the most frequently encountered histological types in canine patients, with iridociliary

epithelial tumours documented in 100 dogs across various breeds, representing the second most common primary intraocular neoplasm after melanoma (Dubielzig et al. 1998; Labelle and Labelle 2013). Although these tumours are relatively uncommon compared to other canine neoplasms, their strategic anatomical location within the anterior segment predisposes affected eyes to severe secondary complications, including glaucoma, uveitis, and progressive vision loss (Camp et al. 2019; Finn et al. 2008).

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

© 2026 The Author(s). *Veterinary Medicine and Science* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.