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Refractive use of intrastromal rings in keratoplasty

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Intrascleral ring implants appeared in the 1950s with the aim of altering the curvature of the cornea promoting the correction of refractive errors. More recently, corneal rings have become more important in ophthalmology for the remodeling of irregular corneas, in which the excimer laser would be contraindicated. Corneal transplants have several indications and currently have a wide range of options depending on the underlying pathology. The postoperative management of keratoplasty, especially regarding refractive errors, can be very difficult. Some situations, such as anisometropia and intolerance of contact lenses, require surgical procedures for visual rehabilitation. Among the surgical option have the procedures with use of excimer laser, when the biomechanical conditions of the cornea allow, and in specific cases of contraindication the possibility of using the intrastromal ring implants, or even implants of intraocular lenses (phakic or pseudophakic). In 2011, the studies were started using large arc length segments with very positive results. They have numerous advantages among them the maintenance of every implant in a single plane allowing greater regularity of the surface of the cornea and with the advent of femtosecond laser the implant of these segments became possible. The option of a ring implant is based on the fact that the procedure has the possibility of being reversible without corneal consumption. Keratoplasty is aimed at obtaining the visual rehabilitation of the patients, so the simple fact of obtaining a good transparency of the corneal button cannot be considered as success; therefore, the final visual acuity should always give the final word on the result.

Biography

Giuliano Pires completed his fellowship in cornea, external diseases and refractive surgery at Hospital Oftalmologico de Sorocaba. He is Coordinator of the cornea sector of CLDO/CCO and Preceptor of the course Ophthalmology at Cearense Institute of Ophthalmology.

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