

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo PIBIC

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Service (sector)

Cornea and External Disease

Nº CEP

Corneal transplantation in children: a prospective study at a public hospital.

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Purpose: To analyze prospectively the anatomical and functional outcomes of penetrating keratoplasty in children in Paulista School of Medicine, São Paulo, Brazil.

Methods: Penetrating keratoplasty procedures were performed in 28 patients aged 6 months to 10 years, from August 1996 to June 2000. The diagnoses were: 16 eyes with congenital opacification (5 Peters' anomaly, 4 congenital glaucoma, 3 congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy, 2 sclerocornea and 2 due to congenital rubeolla) and 12 eyes with acquired corneal scars (6 due to bacterial infection, 3 herpes simplex, 1 anterior staphyloma, 1 traumatic and 1 varicella). The follow up ranged from 4 to 43 months. Optical correction was obtained with spectacles and amblyopia was treated by occlusion therapy, with the time of beginning and duration of treatment determined on an individual basis.

Results: Final postoperative visual acuity was better than preoperative in 24 eyes (85.7%). At the time of last examination, 14,3% of all corneas that underwent surgery were opaque, 10,7% were hazy, and 75% had maintained full clarity. Graft failure included rejection immunological noncompliance in 3 eyes and glaucoma in 1.

Conclusions: Penetrating keratoplasty is becoming increasingly successful in children, even in a population of low socioeconomic status, when combined with appropriate amblyopia management.