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Service (sector)

Cornea and External Disease

Nº CEP

### **Inflammatory Disease of the Peripheral Cornea. Analysis of 30 cases.**

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Purpose: To present the clinical features, diagnosis, and evolution of 30 cases of inflammatory disease of the peripheral cornea.

Methods: Prospective study of 30 consecutive cases of inflammatory disease of the peripheral cornea in patients of the Ophthalmology Department, External Diseases and cornea section, UNIFESP-EPM, between September/99 and October/2000. All patients underwent complete ophthalmological examination clinical review of systems (rheumatologic, respiratory, genitourinary and dermatologic) were performed, as well as, laboratory investigation to detect associated systemic diseases.

Results: 7 out of 30 cases (23.3%) were attributable to rheumatoid arthritis, 13.3% (4 cases) were associated to rosacea, 10 % (2 cases) were due to tuberculosis, in 6,7% (2 cases) Sjogren's syndrome secondary to systemic sclerosis was diagnosed, and another 6.7% (2 cases) occurred after cataract surgery. Wegener's granulomatosis, syphilis and herpes represented 3.3% each (1 case each). All patients presented local thinning, resulting in perforation in 13 cases (43.3%) and 6.6%(2 cases) presented severe corneal thinning requiring intervention. All patients reported diminished visual acuity after onset of the disease.

Conclusion: Inflammatory disease of the peripheral cornea is potentially severe. The majority of these diseases are based on immunological mechanisms but nevertheless a part of them remains without specific characterization.