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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

**Touch sensitivity of normal conjunctiva: efficacy of topical proximetacaine 0,5% and Lidocaine 2%.** Eliane Mayumi Nakano, , Lênio Souza Alvarenga, Denise de Freitas, Luciene Souza Barbosa Purpose: To study the efficacy and duration of conjunctival hypesthesia caused by two different topical anesthetics.

**Materials and Methods** Cochet-bonnet aesthesiometer with a 0,12mm nylon filament was used to determine the touch threshold of the temporal bulbar conjunctiva at 3-5mm from the limbus in 30 eyes of 15 subjects. Afterwards, each eye was randomly assigned to either Proximetacaine 0,5% (Anestalcon<sup>®</sup>) + (Viscotears<sup>®</sup>) or Dextrano 70-hipromelose (lacrima plus<sup>®</sup>) + Lidocaine 2%gel. Conjunctival sensitivity was then measured after 5 and 20 minutes of the instillation. Paired t-test was used to test the difference between the decrease in conjunctival sensitivity caused by the different drugs.

**Results** The mean age was 31,9years. The conjunctival sensitivity after 5 minutes of the the instillation of proximetacaine 0,5% varied from 0 to 0,3894mm<sup>2</sup>/g, whereas in eyes that received lidocaine 2% it varied from 0,0188 to 0,2025mm<sup>2</sup>/g. After 20 minutes the proximetacaine group showed conjunctival sensitivity ranging from 0,0188 to 0,4986mm<sup>2</sup>/g and the lidocaine group showed variation from 0,0565mm<sup>2</sup>/g to 0,7634mm<sup>2</sup>/g. The difference between the decrease in conjunctival sensitivity caused by the anesthetics were not significant neither after 5 minutes nor after 20 minutes of the instillation.

**Conclusions** Unlike other reports, in the studied group no difference between the decrease in conjunctival sensitivity caused by proximetacaine and the decrease observed after the instillation of lidocaine 2%, was observed.