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Contribution of electrophysiological tests in eyes with corneal opacity. Paranhos JFS, Salomão SR, Berezovsky A, Allemann N, Freitas D

PURPOSE: Ocular opacity can make the visualization of the fundus impossible and complicate the decision regarding surgery . The purpose of this study was to evaluate the contribution of electrophysiological (EFG) tests (electroretinography and visual evoked potential) in routine exams of eyes with corneal opacity. **METHODS:** This is a case series of patients with corneal opacity who were tested by electrophysiologic methods between October 1998 and March 2001 in the Laboratory of Visual Electrophysiology, UNIFESP, Brasil. Clinical history, USG and EFG tests results were recorded. **RESULTS:** Eight patients were included in the present study. The age range was 9 months to 56 years (mean 22,3 years) .Corneal opacity was caused by trauma in three patients, alkali burn in one and systemic disease in two. Three patients developed leucoma before the age of 9 months and the cause of these leucomas was not indicated in clinical history. Five patients had ERG, 3 had PVE and 1 had both ERG and PVE. Two ERG were unrecordable and 4 were recordable but subnormal. One patient had a normal PVE and 3 had subnormal results. All patients with an abnormal USG had abnormal EFG tests. Two patients had normal USG and subnormal ERG due to leucoma before the age of 9 months. **CONCLUSION:** Visual prognosis in eyes with opaque media can be evaluated using objective tests such as USG and EFG tests. USG shows anatomical problems. EFG tests, on the other hand, are functional diagnostic tools, hence their value in complementing the preoperative evaluation of eyes with opaque media. This study found that EFG tests in eyes with corneal opacity were consistent with clinical history and ultrasound.