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AMNIOTIC MEMBRANE TRANSPLANTATION FOR NEUROTROPHIC CORNEAL ULCERS. R.T.F.

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Purpose: To evaluate whether amniotic membrane transplantation can be an effective alternative treatment for neurotrophic corneal ulcers. Methods: Amniotic membrane transplantation was performed in 5 eyes of 5 patients with neurotrophic corneal ulcers and vision worse than 20/200. The neurotrophic ulcers developed following herpes simplex keratitis (3 eyes), herpes zoster ophthalmicus (1 eye), and MM-C drops used after removal of a conjunctival invasive squamous cell carcinoma (1 eye). Results: During a mean follow up period of 16.8 ± 11.2 months, one to three layers of amniotic membrane with or without additional membrane as a patch or bandage contact lens were used for 5 procedures in 5 eyes for persistent neurotrophic corneal ulcers. All (100%) cases of amniotic membrane transplantation achieved rapid epithelialization in 17.0 ± 6.3 days. Two eyes had small central corneal perforation and healed well. Three eyes recovered vision better than 20/200. The healed corneal surface was also accompanied by reduced inflammation. Conclusion: Amniotic membrane transplantation can be considered an effective alternative for treating neurotrophic corneal ulcers.