

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

EFFICACY OF INTRASTROMAL NATAMYCIN ON EXPERIMENTAL FUSARIUM SOLANI KERATITIS IN RABBITS – A PILOT STUDY

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PURPOSE: To evaluate the efficacy of intrastromal corneal injection of natamycin on experimentally induced *Fusarium solani* keratitis in rabbits.

METHODS: *Fusarium solani* keratitis will be induced on the right eye of four male New Zealand rabbits following Ishibashi's technique (1978). Seven days after fungal inoculation, the rabbits will be divided, by draw, into 2 groups of 2 animals each, that will be treated with a single 4 ml intrastromal corneal injection of either 5% natamycin suspension in 2% methylcellulose (Group I) or "pure" 2% methylcellulose (Group II, control). The injections will be made through two 250 mm deep intrastromal tunnels (0,2 ml in each) created by using a double Ferrara's spatula for intrastromal corneal ring segments. Twenty-four hours after treatment, all animals will be sacrificed and their infected corneas will be trephined, excised, thoroughly washed with sterile saline solution, macerated and embedded individually into 10 ml of BHI (brain-heart infusion) broth with Chloramphenicol and Gentamicin. Ten ml samples (pure and diluted 1:10 and 1:100) from these suspensions will be cultured on Sabouraud's agar every 24 hours until the 5th day and then on the 7th day after the sacrifice. The number of colony-forming units (CFU) will be counted and data will be submitted to statistical analysis.

RESULTS: (study in progress / to be presented at RD)

CONCLUSIONS: (study in progress / to be presented at RD).