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An experimental animal model of infection by M. chelonae after keratomileusis.

Adan CB, Sato EH, Leão SC, Freitas D. Department of Ophthalmology and Department of Microbiology - Federal University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. Purpose: To create an experimental animal model of infection by M. chelonae in keratomileusis. Methods: Double masked, prospective study consisting of 3 experiments: each one with 8 adult male New Zealand rabbits. Eight eyes of 8 rabbits underwent uneventful partial keratomileusis with a nasal hinge using the automatized corneal shaper (ACS® by Bausch&Lomb), under general anesthesia. Every eye was immunosuppressed by local injection of methyl prednisolone. Controls: 4 animals underwent keratomileusis An inoculum consisting of 1 microliters of 109 inactive bacteria was dropped at the interfaces. Subjects: 4 animals underwent exactly the same procedure as control. The inoculum consisted of 1 microliter of 109.active bacteria. Trimethoprim drops were administrated every 4 hours as prophylaxis. Animals were examined by 2 observers by slit lamp at 1, 2, 7, 12 and 16 days post infection. Slit lamp photos were taken to evaluate clinical signs. Animals were sacrificed as soon as clinical disease was observed. Cornea samples were taken to for microbiologic studies. Results: The first series of experiments has already been performed. The second series is still to be done. Results of both experiments will be presented at the meeting.