

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Refractive Surgery N° CEP

**PERIPHERAL CORNEAL STROMAL INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH
DIFFUSE LAMELAR KERATITIS.**

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PURPOSE: The etiology of diffuse lamellar keratitis (DLK) is still unknown. Among the several hypotheses under investigation, the migration of inflammatory cells from the limbus is one. Analysis of three cases of DLK with peripheral corneal stroma involvement outside of keratomileusis flap was done. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** Three patients underwent laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) with different types of microkeratome (Moria 2 and Hansatome), with no complications. **RESULTS:** They were followed on the 1st, 3rd and 7th postoperative days. DLK was diagnosed in all cases and the inflammatory reaction was seen in the interface of the flap and also in the peripheral corneal stroma, outside the flap. DLK was classified as grade 1-3 according to clinical involvement in all cases. Topical corticosteroids were used to treat the DLK, with clinical improvement within 1-3 days, and DLK grade 3 was treated with surgical procedure. **CONCLUSION:** The migration of inflammatory cells from the limbus is a new hypothesis of DLK. An experimental study with histological evaluation is under conclusion to confirm this hypothesis.