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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

### **Co-infection in patients with amebic Keratitis**

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Purpose: To report microbiological features of patients presenting co-infection during the treatment of Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK). Methods: Retrospective study. During the period of 18/11/1997 to 10/06/2003 110 cases of AK were detected. Diagnosis was based on parasite identification on either smears or cultures. The worsening of the disease after specific treatment was the determinant to order a new laboratory exam. Microbiological work up consisting of smears (gram/ giemsa) and cultures (blood, chocolate and Saboraud agar) . Results: The age range from 15 to 82 years (median 28,3). 40% of the patients were male and 60% female. 20 out 110 (18.2.%) patients were identified with bacterial or fungal co-infection. Patients with co-infection 68,75.% were contact lens wears and in patients with AK without co-infection 77,2.% are contact lens wears. Staphylococcus epidermidis (45.%) was the most common microorganism followed by Streptococcus viridans (20.%) , Corynebacterium (10.%) , Serratia (10.%) , Scedosporium apiospermum ( 5%) , Pseudomonas aeruginosa (5.%) , Acinetobacter lowffii (5.%). Conclusion: In patient with AK the worsening of the disease or the suspect of recrudescence should alert the possibility of co-infection. Microbiological work up should be warranted not only to detect co-infection but also to provide guidelines to the treatment.