

R1  R2  R3  PG0  PG1  Estagiário  Tecnólogo   
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### **Acanthamoeba Keratitis: Microbiology and Histology Findings of Patients Undergone Penetrating Keratoplasty**

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Purpose: To characterize laboratory findings in Acanthamoeba keratitis of patients undergone penetrating keratoplasty. Methods: Retrospective study, with descriptive and analytic components. Scrapings from corneal button culture, bacterioscopy, histology and clinical data were analysed. Results: Medical records of 53 eyes diagnosed as Acanthamoeba keratitis between 1998 and July 2003 were reviewed. Forty eight patients wear contact lenses (92.4%). Fifty one (96.2%) had positive corneal cultures for Acanthamoeba. In bacterioscopy, Acanthamoeba cysts were identified in 11 eyes (20.7%). Histological analysis was done in 18 culture positive samples and 100% were suggestive of Acanthamoeba. Conclusions: Culture for Acanthamoeba was more sensitive for the laboratory diagnosis than the other methods. Histological analysis were also sensitive (100%) despite the limitation of being restricted to a group of patients that underwent penetrating keratoplasty and enucleation.