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Descemet Membrane Detachment: a Rabbit Model

AUTHORS: Bruno M. Fontes, Luiz A. S. Melo Jr, Octaviano Magalhães Jr, Claudia C. Maia, Walton Nose.

PURPOSE: To create a reproducible model of Descemet membrane detachment in rabbits.

METHODS: Five eyes of five adult female New Zealand rabbits were used in this study. A self-sealing limbal incision was made using a sterile 15º knife (Alcon, Fort Worth, TX, USA). From the previous limbal incision, a Descemet membrane detachment was created using an iris spatula (Steel Inox, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil). One of the five eyes was enucleated and pathological examination was performed to verify the success of this model.

RESULTS: Descemet membrane detachment was achieved using the same technique in all eyes. Pathological examination confirmed the Descemet membrane detachment.

CONCLUSION: The technique described is reliable in producing Descemet membrane detachment. Further studies on treatments for Descemet membrane detachment can be developed using this model in rabbits.