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Service (sector) Cornea and External DiseaseN° CEP

NON-INVASIVE BREAK-UP TIME ANALYSIS IN PATIENTS WITH
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PURPOSE: To compare two different methods for measuring the tear break up time (BUT) in patients with rosacea. **METHODS:** Group 1: 10 patients with clinical diagnosis of rosacea and without previous ocular treatment. Group 2: 29 normal adults, who were not using any eye drops and without any ocular surface disease. All patients were evaluated by the non-invasive method (Tearscope plus®) by the first ophthalmologist, who recorded the non-invasive tear break-up time (NIBUT). The exam was performed three times in each eye of each patient. Afterwards, a second ophthalmologist performed three more examination with the same method in each patient. After ten minutes interval, patients were evaluated by the invasive method (BUT with fluorescein). The results were statistically analyzed by linear correlation test. **RESULTS:** The comparison of the results observed by each examiner was linear and positive ($r=0,80$; $p<0,05$). The NIBUT with Tearscope Plus® was lower than with the invasive method (BUT with fluorescein). The BUT was lower in the two methods in the study group patients. The comparison with the NIBUT and BUT with fluorescein was positive and statistically significant ($r=0,76$ e $p<0,05$). **CONCLUSIONS:** a.) The BUT with Tearscope plus® is highly reproducible. b.) The BUT with Tearscope plus® is lower than with the invasive method (BUT with fluorescein). c.) The mean of the BUT in both methods is lower in patients with rosacea.