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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

### **Efficacy of Intrastromal Corneal Injection of Natamycin on Experimental *Fusarium solani* Keratitis in Rabbits.**

Alvio I. Shiguematsu, Luciene B. de Sousa, Silvana A. Schellini, Olga F. Gompertz, Eduardo Bagagli, Carlos A. Padovani. **Purpose:** To evaluate the efficacy of intrastromal corneal injection of natamycin on experimental *Fusarium solani* keratitis (Fsk) in rabbits. **Methods:** Fsk was induced on the right eye of 45 Norfolk rabbits, divided into 3 treatment groups: *G1*: single intrastromal natamycin injection; *GII*: natamycin drops, hourly; and *GIII*: single intrastromal methylcellulose injection. Seven days later, the corneas were excised, macerated and immersed in 10 ml of BHI. Culture samples were daily seeded on Sabouraud's agar plates for 7 days. The number of colony-forming units was counted. **Results:** Significant differences were seen on days 3 ( $G1 < GII < GIII$ ,  $p < 0,005$ ), 4 ( $G1 < GII = GIII$ ,  $p < 0,01$ ) and 6 ( $G1 = GII < GIII$ ,  $p < 0,05$ ). **Conclusion:** A single intrastromal corneal injection of natamycin appears to be as/more efficacious as natamycin drops, hourly, on experimental Fsk.