

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

Purpose: To evaluate the efficacy of the injection of 5% natamycin in 2% methylcellulose into intrastromal corneal tunnels in the treatment of experimental *Fusarium solani* keratitis in rabbits.

Methods: *Fusarium solani* keratitis was induced on the right eye of 45 Norfolk rabbits. Seven days later, the animals were randomly divided into three treatment groups: GI: a single intrastromal corneal injection of 5% natamycin in 2% methylcellulose; GII: 5% natamycin drops applied hourly, with daily epithelium debridement, for seven days; and GIII: a single intrastromal 2% methylcellulose injection. Seven days later, the animals were sacrificed and their infected corneas were trephinated, excised, fragmented and immersed in 10 mL of brain-heart infusion. Ten μ L samples were daily seeded on Sabouraud's agar plates for five days. The number of colony-forming units was counted and submitted to statistical analysis. **Results:** Significant differences were found on days 3 (GI<GII<GIII, P<0,005) and 4 (GI<GII=GIII, P<0,01).

Conclusion: A single intrastromal corneal injection of 5% natamycin in 2% methylcellulose appeared to be more efficacious than 5% natamycin drops applied hourly, for seven days, with daily epithelial debridement, in the treatment of experimental *Fusarium solani* keratitis in rabbits.