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Evaluation of the impact of intracorneal ring segments implantation on quality of life of patients with keratoconus using the NEI-RQL (National Eye Institute Refractive Error Quality of life) instrument.

Paranhos JFS, Paranhos Jr A, Ávila MP, Schor P. PURPOSE: To evaluate the outcome of intracorneal ring segments implantation on quality of life of patients with keratoconus using the NEI-RQL (National Eye Institute Refractive Error Quality of life) instrument. METHODS: The questionnaire was self-administered by patients that had indication for intracorneal ring implantation before and after surgery (when they were wearing the best correction for at least one month). RESULTS: Forty patients were included in this study. So far we have 4 answered the questionnaire after surgery. Descriptive statistics were used due to the small number of patients at this stage. Before surgery the espherical equivalent (EE) ranged from -0,50D to -16,00D (mean -8.05D \pm 5,49) and after the ring implantation it ranged from -1,00D to -5,50D (mean -3,00D \pm 1,81). The best corrected visual acuity improved in all operated eyes. The mean overall scale of satisfaction increased from 45,32 \pm 17,24 points before surgery to 70,5 \pm 10,24 after surgery. Patient satisfaction were greater in subscales clarity of vision (mean ranged from 32,29 before to 84,9 after surgery), far vision (mean 48,75 to 78,33), near vision (mean 46,35 to 88,54), vision fluctuations (mean 33,33 before to 72,92 after) and glare (mean 18,75 to 46,88). Worry about the disease, symptoms, dependence on correction and appearance presented the same scores before and after surgery. CONCLUSIONS: In this preliminary data we intended to evaluate if the questionnaire was appropriated for patients with keratoconus submitted to intracorneal ring implantation and we concluded that it is appropriate. This surgery improved many aspects of quality of vision and the overall scale suggesting that the quality of life improved after surgery. After we concluded the study (meant to be a post-doctoral thesis) it would be possible to use analytic statistics and draw quantitative conclusions.