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Cornea and External Disease

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Fluoracil Injection in an Experimental Model of Epithelialization of the Anterior Chamber in Rabbits.

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Purpose - To assess the influence of the antiproliferative agent (5-FU) on an experimental mode of epithelization of the anterior chamber in rabbit eyes.

Methods – Twelve male albino rabbits (12 eyes) were used in this experiment. An epithelial corneal flap (including limbus) of 5 x 10 mm was prepared and inserted into the anterior chamber of the same eye (OD) in all the twelve rabbits. The graft was positioned over the endothelium with the aid of an air bubble. 5-fluoracil (500 micrograms) was injected in the anterior chamber of six right eyes. In the control group (6 rabbits), it was injected balanced salt solution (BSS) in the right eyes. After two weeks, all animals were euthanised and both eyes were enucleated and prepared for histological studies.

Results – In the control group, histological analyses showed an epithelial membrane covering endothelium in all the six animals. The other group, that received the antiproliferative agent, showed the epithelial membrane in two cases only.

Conclusions – The antiproliferative agent (5-FU) seems to play an important role in the inhibition of the growth of epithelial tissue in the anterior chamber.