

**On behalf of Vision Expo, we sincerely thank you for being with us this year.**

**Vision Expo Has Gone Green!**

We have eliminated all paper session evaluation forms. Please be sure to complete your electronic session evaluations online when you login to request your CE Letter for each course you attended! Your feedback is important to us as our Education Planning Committee considers content and speakers for future meetings to provide you with the best education possible.



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**Financial Disclosure – Justin Schweitzer, OD, FAAO**

- Aerie – C/L
- Alcon – C/L
- Allergan – C/L
- Bausch + Lomb – C/L
- Ocular Therapeutix - C
- EyePoint – C
- Sight Sciences – C/L
- Dompe – C
- Zeiss – C/L
- Visus - C
- Science Based Health – C
- Kala – C
- RVL - C
- Sun – C/L
- Equinox - I
- Reichert - C
- J&J – C/L
- Glaukos – C/L
- Horizon – C
- Quidel – C
- MediPrint – C
- LKC – C/L
- Avellino – C
- Novartis – C
- Iveric bio – C
- Occuphire - C

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**Case Challenges of the Cornea**

Justin Schweitzer, OD, FAAO  
Vance Thompson Vision  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Optometric Externship Director

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### Case

19-year-old female with a painful, red, cloudy left eye. Does wear CL's but states that she does not sleep in them and cares for them well.  
Has had a FB sensation for a few weeks.

Primary MD put in a BCL for comfort and started Neo-Poly-Dex

20/40 BCVA OS

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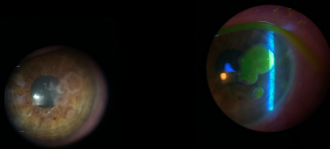
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### Slit Lamp Examination

Branching ulcer with satellite lesion  
1+ cell  
2+ injection of the conjunctiva



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### Culturing is Essential!

Bacterial  
Gram stain  
KOH prep  
Fungal  
Viral



1. Positive result for *Nocardia farcinica*

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Aggressive Treatment is Essential!



1. Treatment w/ Amikacin q1h OS

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When to Culture?

1. 3-2-1 Rule
  1. 3 mm in Size
  2. 2 lesions or more
  3. 1 mm of visual axis
2. Risk of perforation
3. Scleral tissue involvement
4. Injury with vegetative matter
5. Institutionalized patients where MRSA is possible
6. Lesion is not responding to treatment
7. Atypical features suggestive of fungal, amoebic or mycobacterial

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“Quick Culture”



No significant difference in growth compared to direct plating<sup>1</sup>

Mitchell GB, Kumar A, Cavillan C, Schmitt M, Whittier JH. Reliability of transport medium in the laboratory evaluation of contact lenses. Am J Ophthalmol. 2005 Dec; 140(6): Pg 1027-1031.

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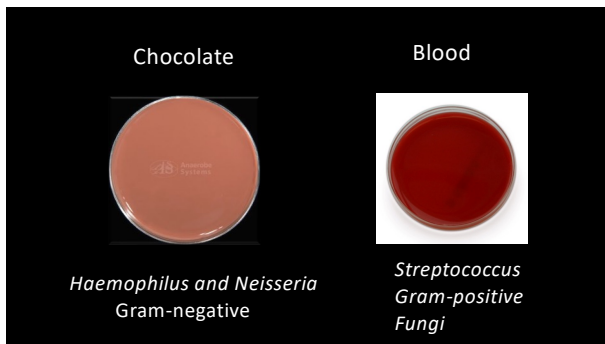
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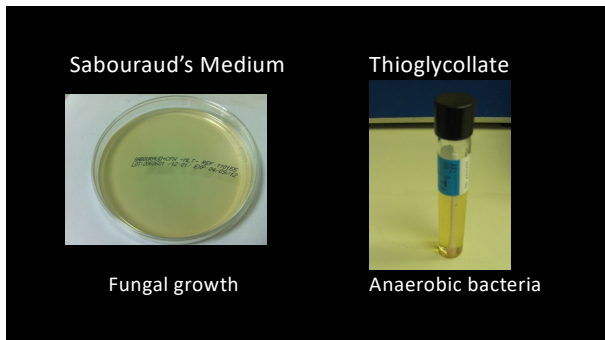
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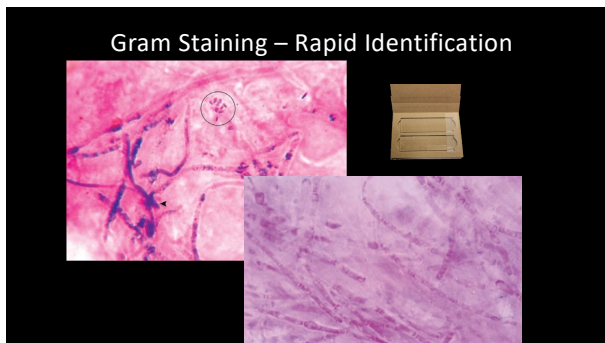
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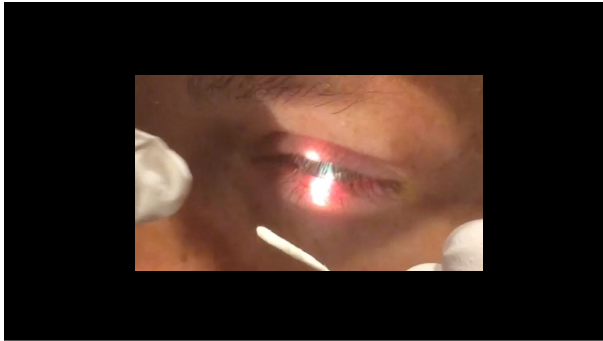
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### PCR Testing

24-hour turnaround



#### PERSONALIZED SUMMARY ANTIBIOGRAM

**Antibiotic Table Legend:**  
 - **ACTIVITY:** 100% of bacterial culture isolates are susceptible.  
 - **ACTIVITY:** 50-99% of bacterial culture isolates are susceptible.  
 - **ACTIVITY:** 0-49% of bacterial culture isolates are susceptible.  
 - **ACTIVITY:** 0-49% of bacterial culture isolates are susceptible.  
 - **ACTIVITY:** 0-49% of bacterial culture isolates are susceptible.

Antibiotic	Result	Category
Amoxicillin	Susceptible	AMP
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate	Susceptible	AMC
Clindamycin	Susceptible	CLD
Vancomycin	Susceptible	VAN

**Optimizing Infection Pathogen Detected**

Antibiotic	Result	Category
Amoxicillin	Susceptible	AMP
Amoxicillin-Clavulanate	Susceptible	AMC
Clindamycin	Susceptible	CLD
Vancomycin	Susceptible	VAN

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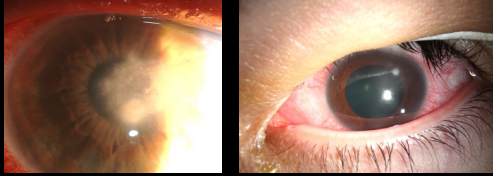
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Clinical Findings: Location, location, location!

- Central –likely more virulent pathogen
- Peripheral – more likely staph marginal



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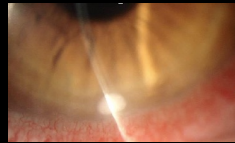
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Clinical Findings: Epithelial defect

- Measure in mm
- Relative size
  - Compared to underlying infiltrate



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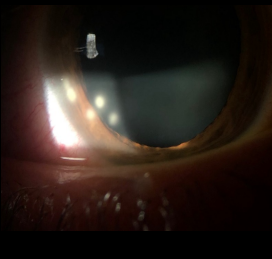
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Clinical Findings: Infiltrate

- Presence or absence!
- What do the borders look like?
  - Hazy/feathered → think fungal
- Single lesion or multiple?
  - Multiple infiltrates may be seen in satellite, atypical, or staph species



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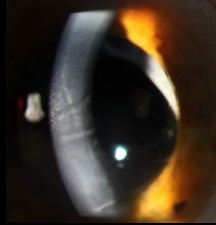
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### Clinical Findings: Stromal thickness

- Corneal edema
  - Often present!
  - Excessive edema
- Is there any thinning?
  - Monitor closely for melt



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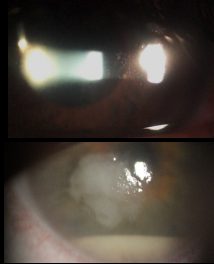
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### Clinical Findings: Anterior chamber reaction

- May be present in *any* ulcer, uveitis, or epithelial defect
  - AC reaction  $\neq$  (always) infectious
- Hypopyon may be present in severe cases
- Granulomatous KPs could suggest herpetic



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### Clinical Findings: Pain

- Critical question!!
- Less than expected?
  - Check sensitivity in clinic!
  - Consider neurotrophic or herpetic
- More than expected?
  - Consider acanthamoeba



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### Clinical Findings: Perineuritis

- Uncommon finding
- Hallmark of acanthamoeba



reviewofcontactlens.com

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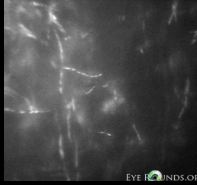
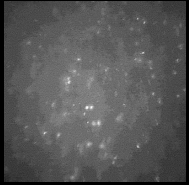
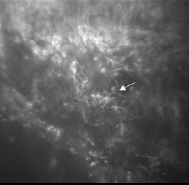
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### Confocal Imaging

Fusarium <sup>1</sup>	Acanthamoeba	Nocardia asteroides <sup>2</sup>
		
Branching fungal hyphae through stroma	Double walled cysts, highly reflective round bodies	Reflective, thin branching filamentous bacteria

1. Graf JM, Gans RM, Surpin JE. Fungal Keratitis - Fusarium 43-year-old female contact lens wearer with persisting keratitis. EyeRounds.org. data accessed: Available from: <http://www.eyeforounds.org/case/59/fusarium-fungal-keratitis-REFU/M0000002780>. Published on May 2, 2014. 2. Gouveia B, Kim H. Confocal microscopy for keratitis diagnosis. Ophthalmology. 2016; 133(1): 141-142.

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### Infectious Keratitis Management and Treatment



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## Fluoroquinolones

**2<sup>nd</sup> Generation**  
ofloxacin 0.3%  
ciprofloxacin 0.3%

**4<sup>th</sup> Generation**  
gatifloxacin 0.3% and 0.5%  
moxifloxacin 0.5%

besifloxacin – 4<sup>th</sup> + added benefits

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## Fortified Antibiotics

tobramycin - cefazolin  
(gram -) (gram +)  
(pseudomonas)

vancomycin - tobramycin  
(gram +) (gram -)

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## ARMOR (2015)

Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring in Ocular Microorganisms

1. *S. aureus* and Coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS) have high (42-49%) rates of methicillin resistance
2. Methicillin resistant organisms also showed higher resistance to fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, and macrolides
3. Besivance > other 4<sup>th</sup> generation fluoroquinolones > older 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>
4. *S. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa*, *H. influenzae* appeared pan-sensitive
5. Staphylococcal Isolates susceptible to vancomycin

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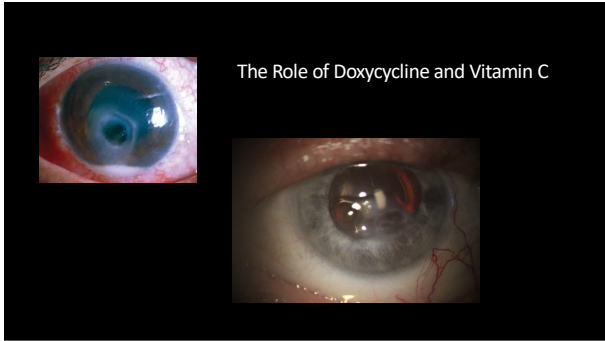
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**Steroids for Corneal Ulcers Trial (SCUT) Study**

500 eyes received 0.5% moxifloxacin every hour while awake for 48 hours

Randomized to either topical steroids or placebo

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**Steroids for Corneal Ulcers Trial (SCUT) Study (3 months)**

Steroid group required more time to re-epithelialize

4 adverse events in the placebo group and none in the steroid group

No statistically significant difference in VA between the steroid and placebo group at 3 weeks or 3 months

No statistically significant difference in scar size at 3 weeks or 3 months

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**Steroids for Corneal Ulcers Trial (SCUT) Study (12 months)**



Trend was...  
Better long-term VA outcomes  
In the steroid group

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**In Conclusion...**

Follow 24-72 hours until signs of improvement

Treatment can last months

Q1h treatment day/night



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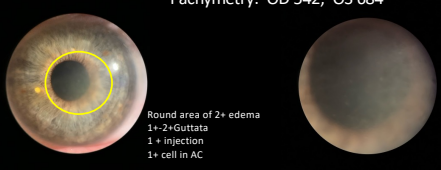
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**Case** JS 44-year-old female presents with blurry VA, photophobia, and unspecified corneal edema OS Treated 2 months ago with some "big pills"

Dcc: 20/15 -2 OD; 20/600 OS  
IOP: 12 OD; 14 OS  
Pachymetry: OD 542; OS 684



Round area of 2+ edema  
1+ 2+ Guttata  
1+ injection  
1+ cell in AC

KP's present

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### Case Considerations

- Infectious or Not Infectious?
- Key Clinical Findings?
- Treatment?

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### My Treatment

Valacyclovir 1000 mg 3 x a day  
Topical corticosteroid qid

1 week later, edema was resolved, some mild scarring present, with some guttate and VA improved to 20/40.

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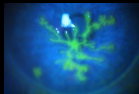
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### HSV Keratitis Features



Unilateral presentation → always suspicious for HSV

Iritis with high IOP → always suspicious for HSV

After 2<sup>nd</sup> episode, 70-80% had another recurrence within 10 years

Bilateral involvement or prolonged HSV suggests comorbid disease (immunodeficiency or immunosuppression)

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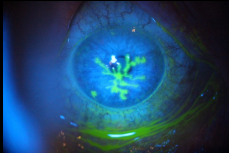
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**Epithelial**  
 Dendritic epithelial ulcer  
 Geographic epithelial ulcer  
 Marginal epithelial ulcer



**Stromal**  
 Non-necrotizing keratitis  
 Interstitial keratitis  
 Immune stromal keratitis  
 Necrotizing keratitis



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**Endothelitis**  
 Disciform keratitis  
 Area of corneal edema  
 No epi involvement pseudo-guttae and Descemet's folds



<http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/eyeforum/cases/160-hsv.htm>

**Neurotrophic**  
 Ulcerated  
 Results from altered corneal innervation and decreased tear production



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**HSV Keratitis Treatment**

**Acyclovir (Zovirax)**  
 400 mg 5 x daily for 7-10 days

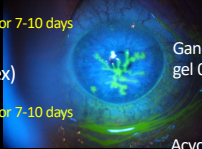
**Valacyclovir (Valtrex)**  
 500 mg 3 x daily for 7-10 days

**Famciclovir (Famvir)**  
 250 mg 3 x daily for 7-10 days

**Trifluridine ophthalmic solution 1% (Viroptic)**  
 1 drop 9 x a day for 7 days; can decrease to 5 x a day after 7 days if ulcer not healed.

**Ganciclovir ophthalmic gel 0.15% (Zirgan)**  
 1 drop 5 x a day until ulcer heals followed by 1 drop 3 x a day for 7 days.

**Acyclovir ophthalmic ointment (Avaclyn)**  
 1 cm ribbon in lower cul-de-sac 5 x per day until healed then 3 times per day for 7 days.



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## HSV Keratitis Prophylaxis

### Why?

1. Multiple recurrences of HSV keratitis
2. Recurrent inflammation with scar/vascularization
3. Post-keratoplasty performed for HSV reasons
4. Postoperatively in patients with history of HSV undergoing any type of ocular surgery
5. In patients with a history of ocular HSV during immunosuppressive treatment



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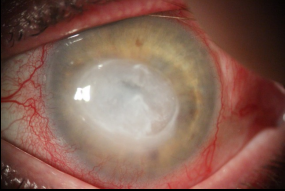
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## HSV Keratitis Prophylaxis



Acyclovir (Zovirax)
400 mg 2 x daily for 1 year
Valacyclovir (Valtrex)
500 mg 1 x daily for 1 year
Famciclovir (Famvir)
250 mg 2 x daily for 1 year

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## Treatment Principles

Treat epithelial disease 1<sup>st</sup> and stromal 2<sup>nd</sup>

When using steroids use either therapeutic or prophylactic dose of orals to prevent reoccurrence

In stromal cases that are controlled taper steroid gradually. Patient may never be able to get off in stromal disease and prophylactic orals may be required indefinitely.

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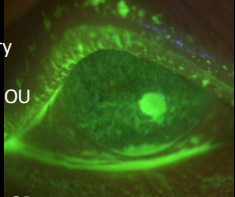
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"I have noticed a steady decline in my vision in the right eye over the last few months. No pain has been present, just a decline in my vision."

80-year-old white female  
 VAcc: 20/70-2 OD  
 POHx: Moderate POAG OU, Cataract surgery OD  
 Ocular Medications: bimatoprost 0.01% qd OU  
 IOP: 15 mmHg OD 16 mmHg OS  
 Corneal Sensitivity Testing: Absent in all quadrants OD  
 Posterior Exam: 0.75/0.75 w/ Inferior notch OD



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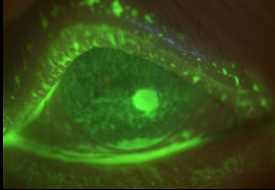
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**Diagnosis: NK Stage 2**

**Treatment:**  
 Inserted punctal plug OD  
 Preservative free AT's  
 Cenegermin 6 x a day OD  
 Moxifloxacin tid OD



Other Considerations?

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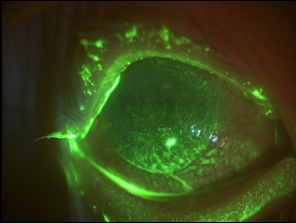
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**1-Month Follow Up**

VAcc: 20/50-1

**Current Medications**  
 Cenegermin 6 x a day OD  
 Bimatoprost qd OD  
 PF AT's 4-6 x a day OD  
 Moxifloxacin tid OD

**Treatment**  
 Continue with current medications



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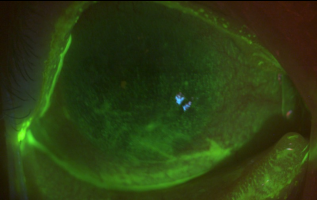
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**2-Month Follow Up**

VAcc: 20/50-1

**Current Medications**  
 Cenegermin 6 x a day OD  
 Bimatoprost qd OD  
 PF AT's 4-6 x a day OD  
 Moxifloxacin tid OD

**Treatment**  
 Completed cenegermin course 6 x a day OD  
 D/C moxifloxacin OD  
 Bimatoprost qd OD  
 PF AT's 4-6 x a day OD




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**Treatment Considerations in NK**

Topicals	In-office Procedures	Surgical Intervention
Artificial Tears (PF)	Contact Lenses	Tarsorrhaphy
Corticosteroids	Punctal Occlusion	Conjunctival flap
Autologous serum	Non-surgical eyelid closure	Corneal transplant
Antibiotics	Amniotic Membrane	Direct neurotization
Cenegermin-bkbj	Tissue adhesives	Sutured AMT

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**Neurotrophic Keratitis: Etiology**

- Infectious: HSV, VZV, leprosy
- CN V palsy
  - Surgery for trigeminal neuralgia, neoplasia (acoustic neuroma), aneurysm, facial trauma, congenital, familial dysautonomia (Riley-Day syndrome), Goldenhar-Gorlin syndrome, Möbius syndrome, familial corneal hypesthesia
- Topical medications: anesthetic abuse
- Iatrogenic: LASIK/PRK, corneal incisions (RK, AK), contact lens wear, scleral bands, vitrectomy and photocoagulation to treat diabetic retinopathy<sup>1,2</sup>
- Chemical and physical burns
- Systemic: DM, multiple sclerosis, Vit A deficiency
- Increasing age, chronic DED<sup>3</sup>

1. Barreiros PJ. JAMA ophthalmology 2014;132:750-2.  
 2. Littley CC. Eye 2009;23:1819-23.  
 3. Chin SW. 2007. pp.461-74-91.

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## Neurotrophic Keratitis: Classification

### Mackie classification

- Stage I is characterized by hyperplasia and/or irregularity of the epithelium, evolving to punctate keratopathy, corneal edema, neovascularization, stromal scarring.
- Stage II is defined by a recurrent or persistent epithelial defects or a PED without stromal thinning.
- Stage III: stromal involvement leads to corneal ulcer, melting and perforation

Mackie LA. Neurotrophic keratitis. Current Ocular Therapy, Philadelphia, PA: WB Saunders; 1995:452-4.

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## Corneal Assessment

- Assessment of corneal sensation is essential to diagnose NK
- Methods of assessing corneal sensation:
  - Clinical: "Wisp" of cotton, dental floss
    - Performed easily in the clinic
    - Patient's reaction is noted and compared between each eye
  - Cochet-Bonnet esthesiometer
    - Different lengths (60 to 5 mm) of nylon filament applied to the cornea
    - Longer the length, the higher (normal) the sensitivity
  - Automated esthesiometer
    - Quantitative data to monitor over time



Image courtesy of Stephen C. Pflugfelder, MD

Dua HS, et al. Prog Retin Eye Res. 2010;08:107-121.

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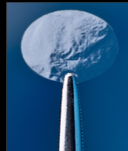
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## Amniotic Membranes Amniotic Membrane Extract Eye Drop (AMEED)



Cryopreserved Membranes



Dry Membranes



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### Amniotic Membrane for NK

- Self-retaining fresh-frozen option good for acute in-office use in nonhealing epithelial defects
- Long-term (12-month) prospective studies using AM transplantation:

Study (Year)	Number of Eyes/Patients	AM Method	Healing Rate	Epithelial Healing, Days	Rate of Vision Improvement	Follow-Up, Months
Kruse et al (1999)	10/10	Multiple layers	100% (10/10)	Range: 21-28	44.4% (4/9)	12 ± 0
Nubile et al (2011)	9/9	Multiple layers	88.9% (8/9)	13.8 ± 4.7	-	12 ± 0

Mead OD, et al. *Tekron / Ophthalmol*. 2020;10(1):15-21.

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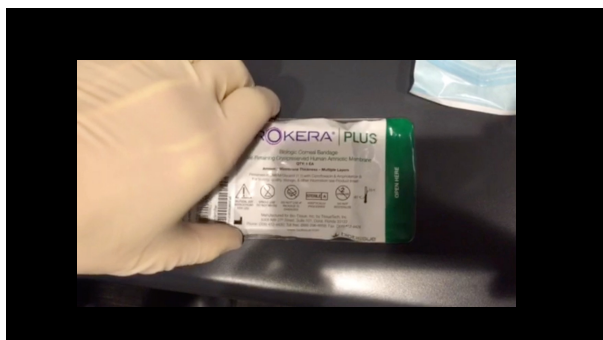
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### Cenegermin Pivotal Trials

	NOF02212 (NEPARD) <sup>®</sup> (N = 156)	NOF02214 <sup>®</sup> (N = 48)
Geography	Europe 6 countries (Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Poland) 32 clinical centers	United States 11 clinical centers
Design	3 treatment arms: Vehicle, cenegermin 10 µg/mL, cenegermin 20 µg/mL	2 treatment arms: Vehicle, cenegermin 20 µg/mL
NK stage	2 and 3	2 and 3
Vehicle and cenegermin composition	Without antioxidant	With antioxidant (methionine)
Duration of follow-up	48 weeks	24 weeks
Unilateral/Bilateral disease	Unilateral	Unilateral and bilateral
Corneal healing end point*	Primary analysis was corneal healing at week 4; key secondary end point was corneal healing at week 8	Primary analysis was healing of the neurotrophic lesion after 8 weeks of masked treatment

1. Baskin S, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2018;125(5):1332-1342.  
 2. US National Library of Medicine. Cenegermin 20µg/ml ophthalmic drops. Package insert. Updated November 1, 2022. Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/>  
 3. Wrightson SC, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2020;127(1):14-24.

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29-year-old WF with complaints of fluctuating vision, irritated eyes, and some redness. She owns a flower business, but states this has never been a problem in the past. I am tired of wearing my contact lenses and is interested in refractive surgery.

PMHx: Unremarkable  
POHx: Contact Lenses x 14 years  
Systemic Meds: None  
Topical Meds: AT's off and on  
Allergies: NKDA  
FMHx: None  
Social Hx: Nothing to report



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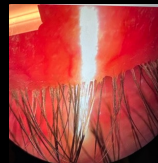
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SPEED: 6/28  
BCVA: 20/15 OD 20/15 OS  
MRX: -3.50 OU  
IOP: 12 OD 12 OS  
MIMP-9 Testing: Positive OU  
Osmolarity: 300 OD, 322 OS



SLEx:  
Lids/Lashes: See photo's; Minimal meibum secretions noted  
Conjunctiva/Sclera: Trace injection noted OU, no staining  
Cornea: Clear; TBUT: 7 seconds OU  
A/C: Deep and Quiet OU  
Iris: Flat OU  
Lens: Normal



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### Case Considerations

- OK To Proceed Refractive Surgery?
- How do you educate this patient?
- Treatment Considerations?

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### What I Did

1. Heat and gland clearing treatment in clinic OU
2. Start loteprednol bid x 1 month OU
3. Start lotilaner bid OU x 6 weeks OU
4. At home maintenance
5. RTC in 6 weeks for a recheck

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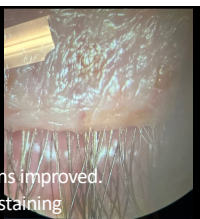
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Patient states VA seems better.  
BCVA: 20/15 OD 20/15 OS  
IOP: 14 OD 14 OS  
Osmolarity: 300 OD 300 OS



#### SLEx:

- Lids/Lashes: See photo; Meibum secretions improved.
- Conjunctiva/Sclera: Clear, no injection or staining
- Cornea: Clear; TBUT: >10 seconds OU
- A/C: Deep and Quiet OU
- Iris: Flat OU
- Lens: Normal

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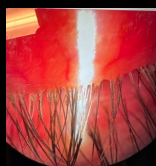
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### Lotilaner FDA-approved treatment for *Demodex* blepharitis<sup>1</sup>

#### How Does it Work?

1. Is a lipophilic agent in an aqueous drop
2. Acts specifically via mite GABA-gated chloride channels
3. Targets, paralyzes, and kills *Demodex* mites



References: 1. XDEMIVY [prescribing information]. Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2023. 2. Touban CE, et al. Parasit Vectors. 2017;10(1):522.  
3. Yeu E, et al. Cornea. 2023;42(4):435-443. 4. Glaston IA, et al. Ophthalmology. 2023;30(10):16420(2):000392-6.

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**A Novel, Targeted, Open Eye, Thermal Therapy and Meibomian Gland Clearance in the Treatment of Dye Eye:**

**A Randomized Controlled Investigator masked Trial (OLYMPIA)**

Preeya K. Gupta, MD, Edward J. Holland, MD, John Hovanesian, MD, Jennifer Loh, MD, Mitchell A. Jackson, MD, Paul M. Karpecki, OD, Kavita Dhamdhare, MD, PhD

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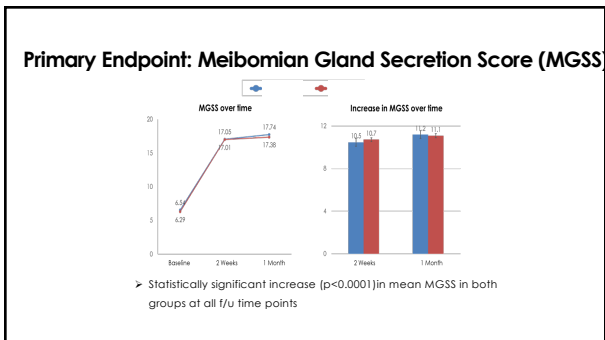
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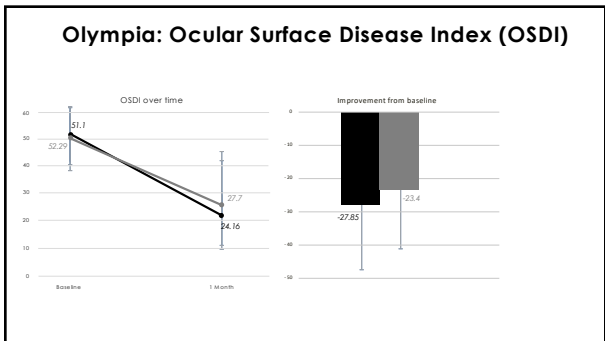
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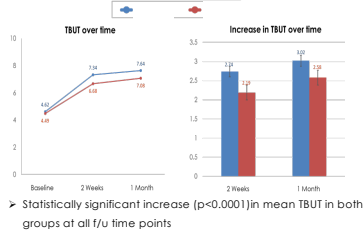
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### Primary Endpoint: Tear Film Break-Up Time (TBUT)



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