



# Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty

Miltos O. Balidis PhD, FEBOphth, ICOphth



# DALK indications



## Visual

- Keratoconus
- Corneal stromal dystrophies and degenerations
- Deep corneal scarring (post traumatic, post infection etc)

## Tectonic

- Advanced ectatic (pellucid marginal degeneration)
- Corneal melt (autoimmune, neurotrophic or infectious)
- Traumatic small corneal perforations
- Peripheral corneal thinning (Mooren's, Terrien's, other autoimmune disease)





## DALK - Big Bubble Technique

Safest and fastest method of Descemet's membrane exposure

<http://www.anwarbigbubble.com>

## 1. Manual dissection techniques

- Melles (visco – optical reflection)
- Archilla (pneumatic)
- Anwar (pre descemetic air bubble)

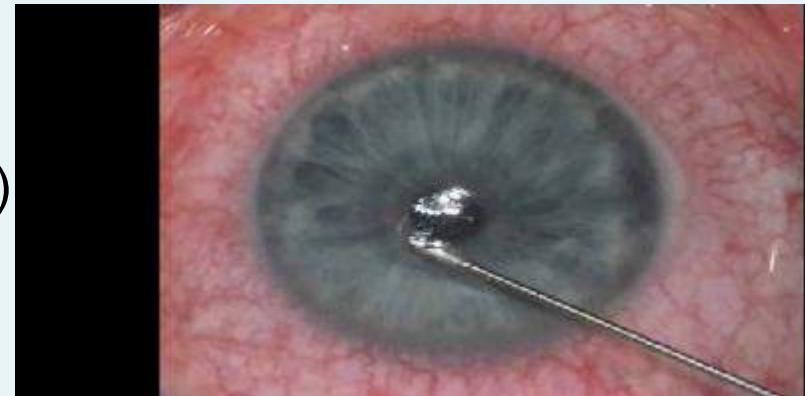
## 2. Femto assisted DALK

- Intra-bubble
- FALK

## 3. Excimer assisted DALK

- CLAK

# Technique



# Pellucid Marginal Degeneration

•**Red arrows** : semi-circular, specular light-reflex at the air-to-endothelium interface near the tip of the blade, caused by the indentation of the tissue (*left*)

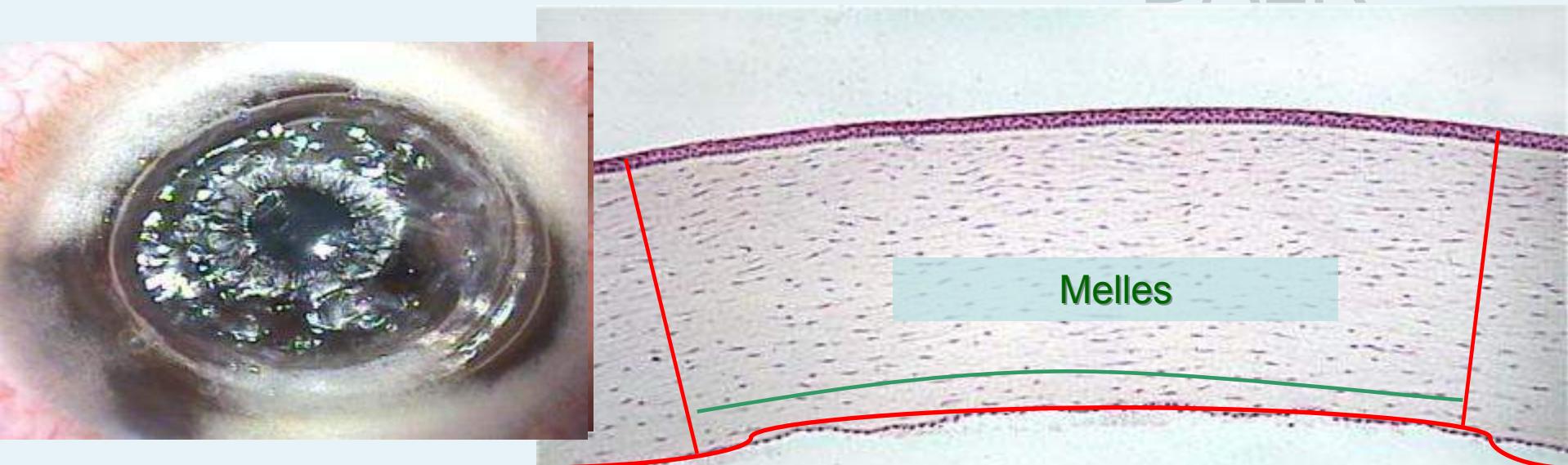


•**Yellow arrow.**

- Optical reflection (*right*)
- Descemet's folds *(left)*

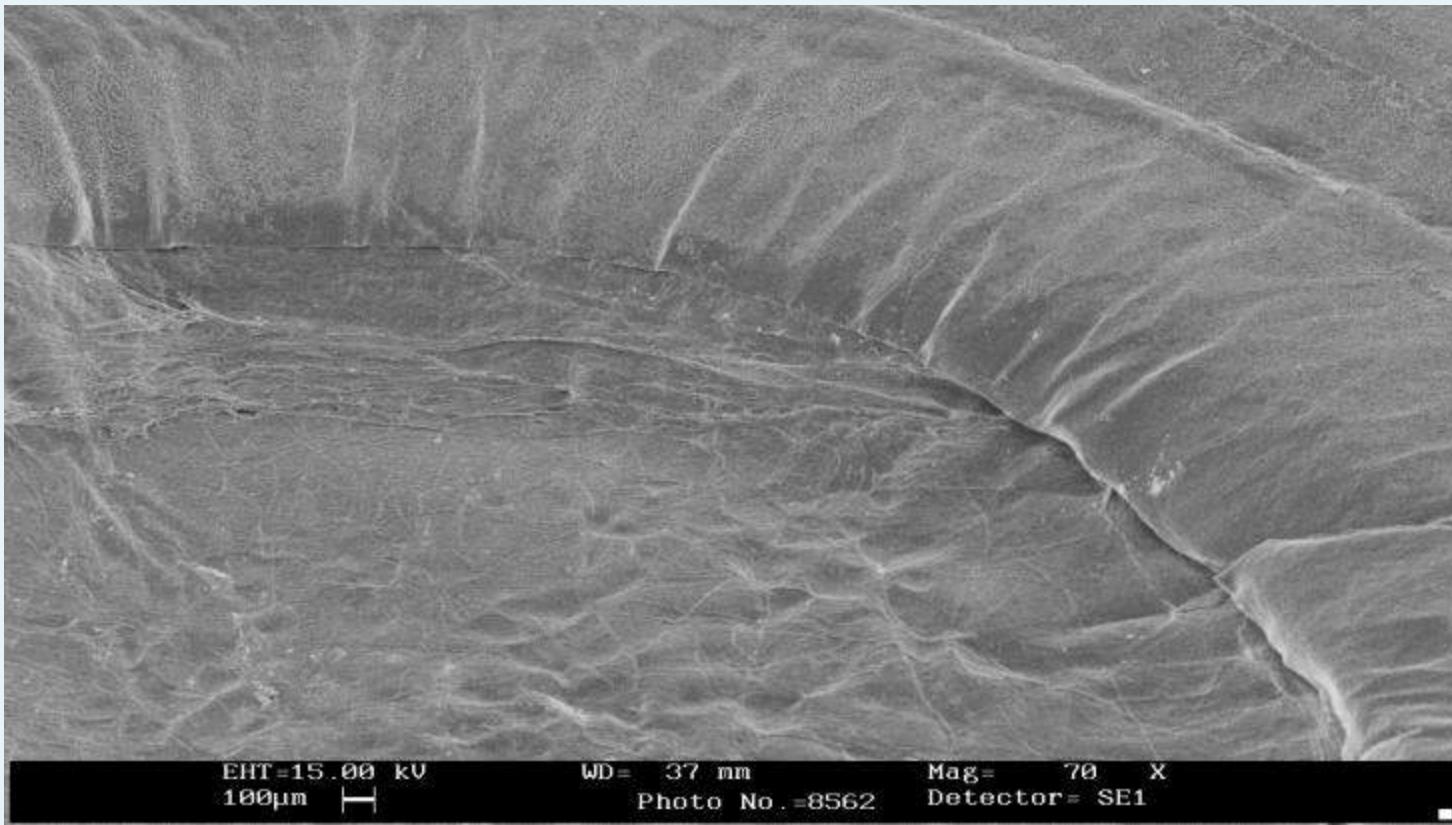


# DALK



Big Bubble /  
viscodissection





EHT = 15.00 KV  
100µm

WD = 37 mm  
Photo No. = 8562

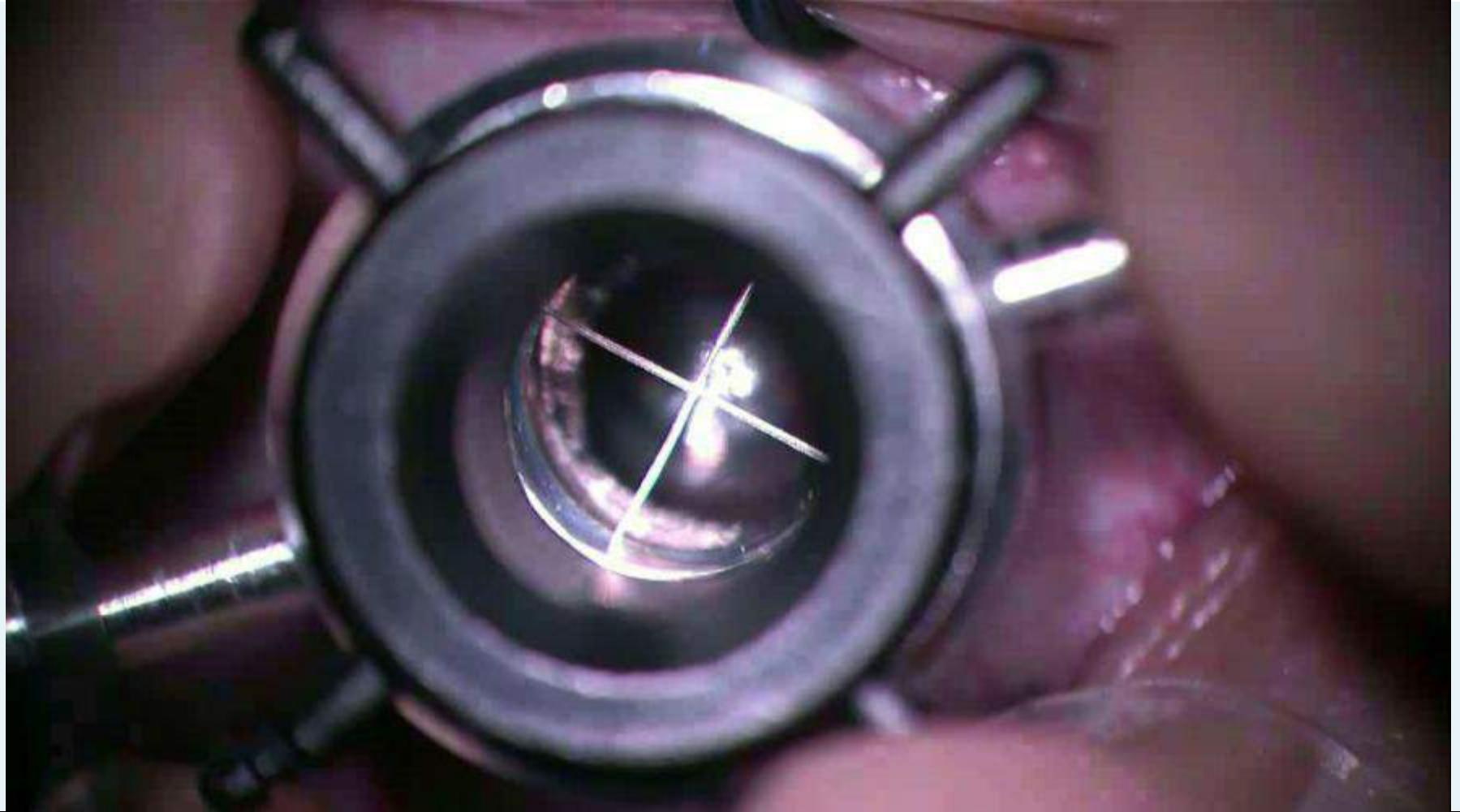
Mag = 70 X  
Detector = SE1

*Nubile M. Fontana L.* Unpublished data with permission

Athens 2017

[www.ophthalmica.gr](http://www.ophthalmica.gr)



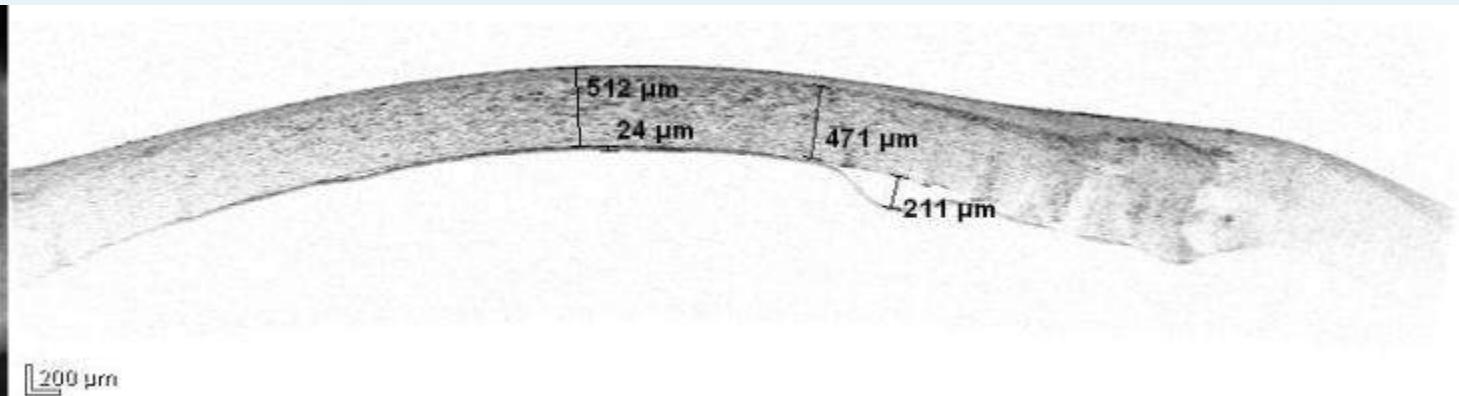
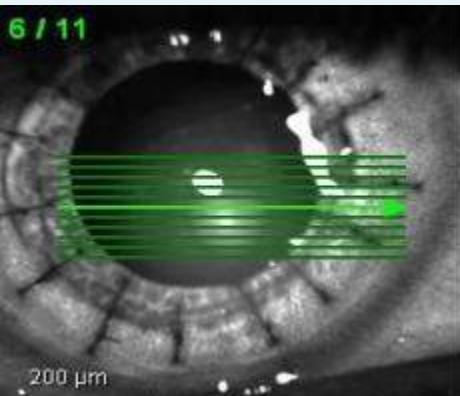


Athens 2017

[www.ophthalmica.gr](http://www.ophthalmica.gr)



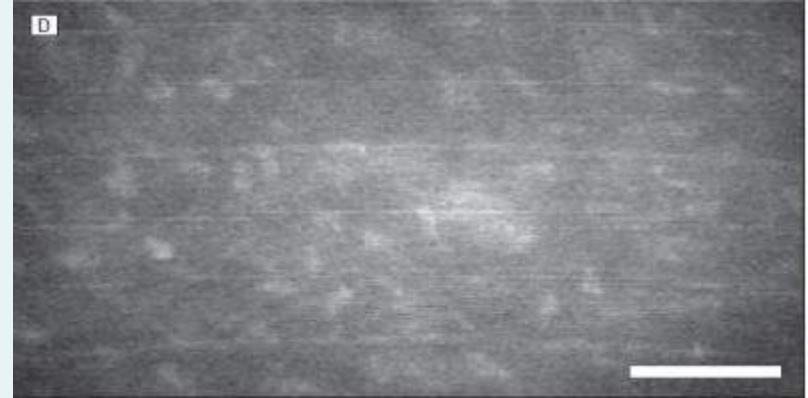
6 / 11



# Perfect dissection plane - Close to Descemet's membrane

- Air dissection clearly occurs above the level of Descemet's membrane.
- Reaching the level of Descemet's membrane minimizes the healing process and thus the production of haze, thereby providing good corneal clarity

- Lim P, Bradley, et al. *Histopathology of deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty with pneumatic dissection: The "bigbubble" technique*. Cornea. 2009;28(5):579-582.
- Abdelkader et al. *Confocal microscopy of corneal wound healing after deep lamellar keratoplasty in rabbits*. Arch Ophthalmol. 2010;128(1):75-80..

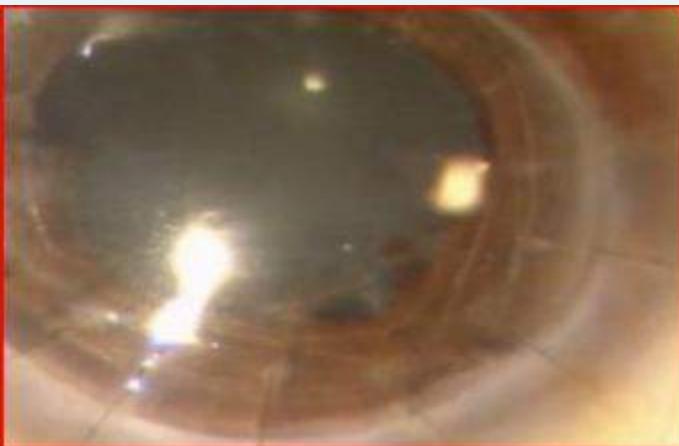


# DALK Advantage

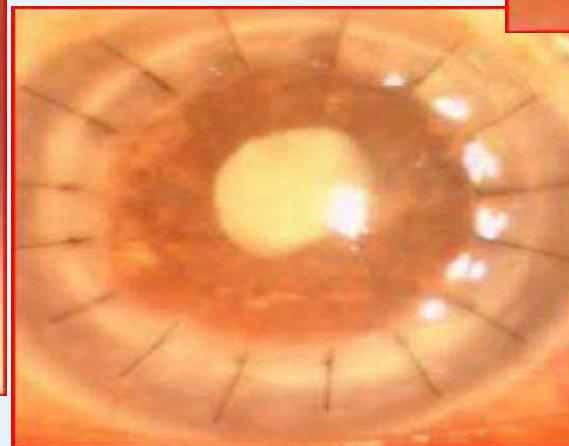
- Lower rejection rate
- Ease of re-grafting
- Lower endothelial cell loss
- Faster recovery
- Avoiding complications associated with  
‘open sky surgery’



# Complication of open sky procedure



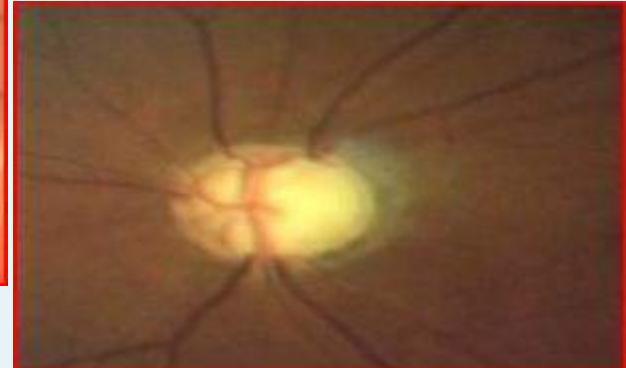
synechiae



cataract

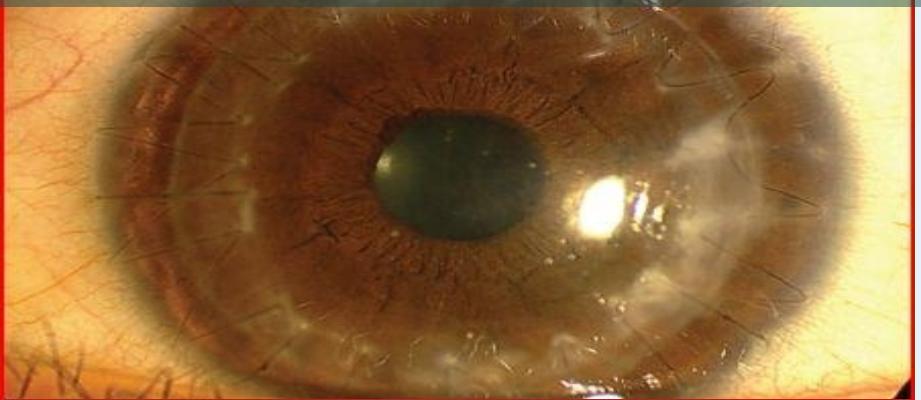


Graft failure



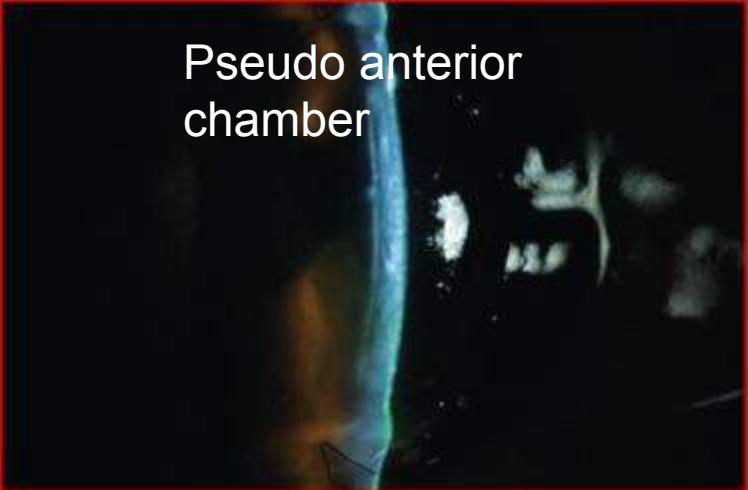
Secondary glaucoma

Suture induced reaction,cheese wiring & loose suture

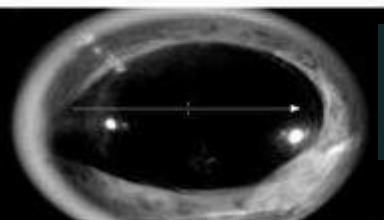


Interface wrinkling

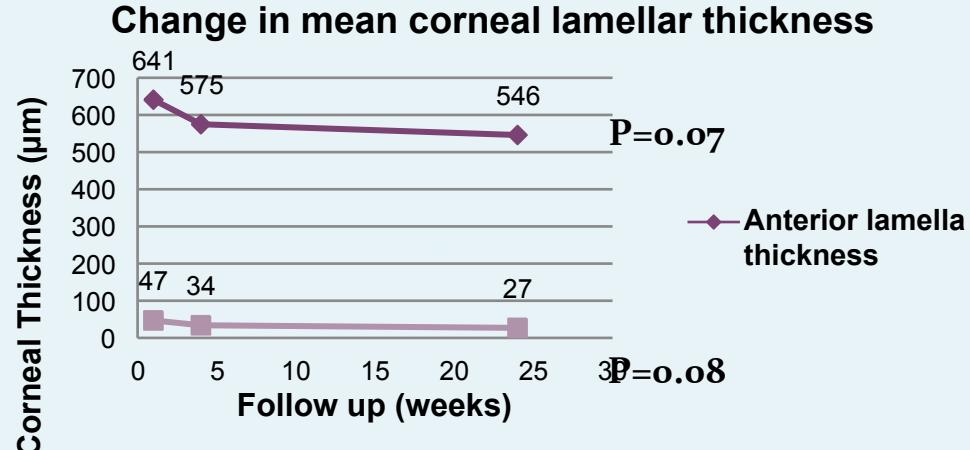
Pseudo anterior chamber



Uretts Zavalia



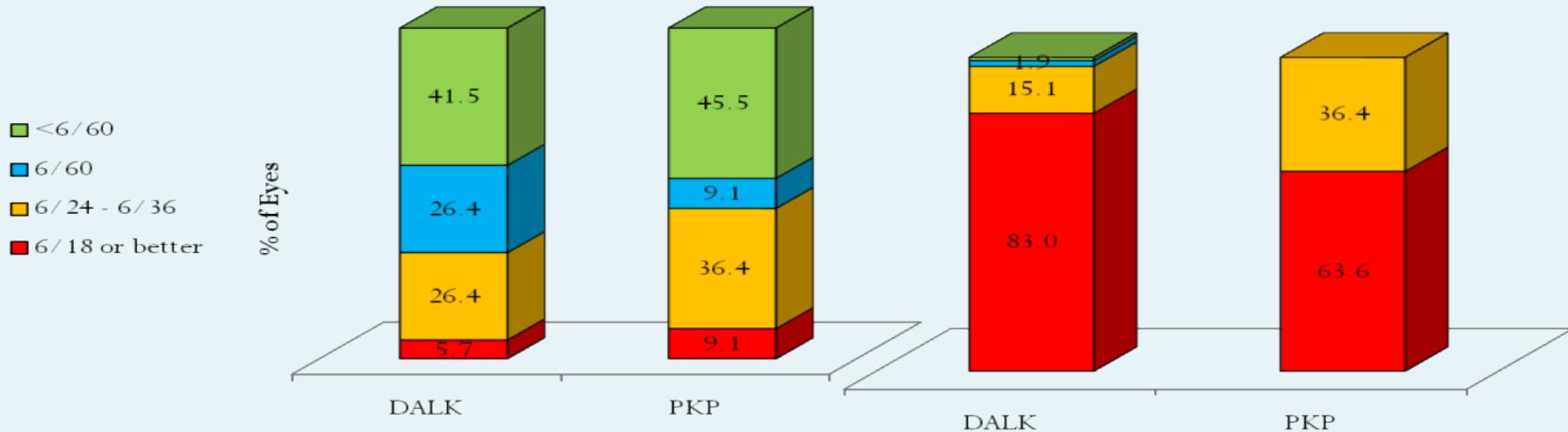
complication	Rate	Action
Descemet's micro-perforation	2 (22%)	Conservative
Graft rejection (suture vascularisation only)	1 (11%)	Topical steroids – resolved
Graft detachment	2 (22%)	Air reinjection. 1 failed 1 resolved
Double AC	1 (11%)	Air reinjection corneal massage – resolved
Epithelial defect	1 (11%)	BCL
Loose suture	3 (33%)	Suture removal
Gaping corneal cataract wound following suture removal	1 (11%)	Wound re-sutured
Steroid response (raised IOP)	1 (11%)	Switch to alternative topical steroid



- Evaluation of Corneal Graft Profile Following Deep Anterior and Posterior Lamellar Keratoplasty Procedures by Fourier-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography  
Deepak Parmar et al



## Visual Outcome at 1 month

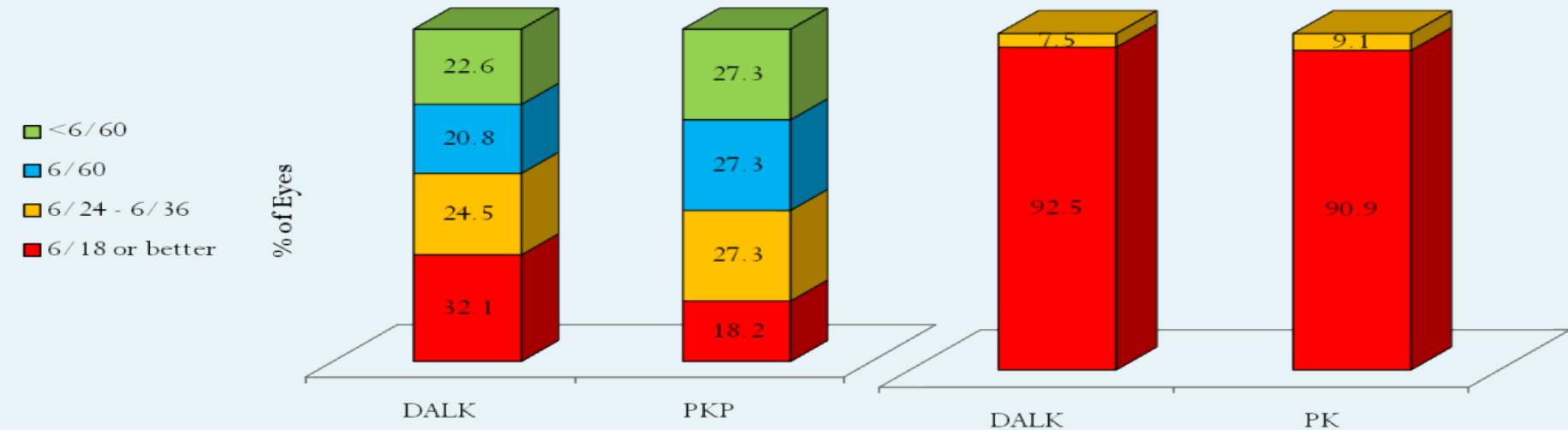


Uncorrected Visual acuity  
p=0.639 (NS)

Best corrected Visual acuity  
p=0.242 (NS)



# Visual Outcome at 1 Year



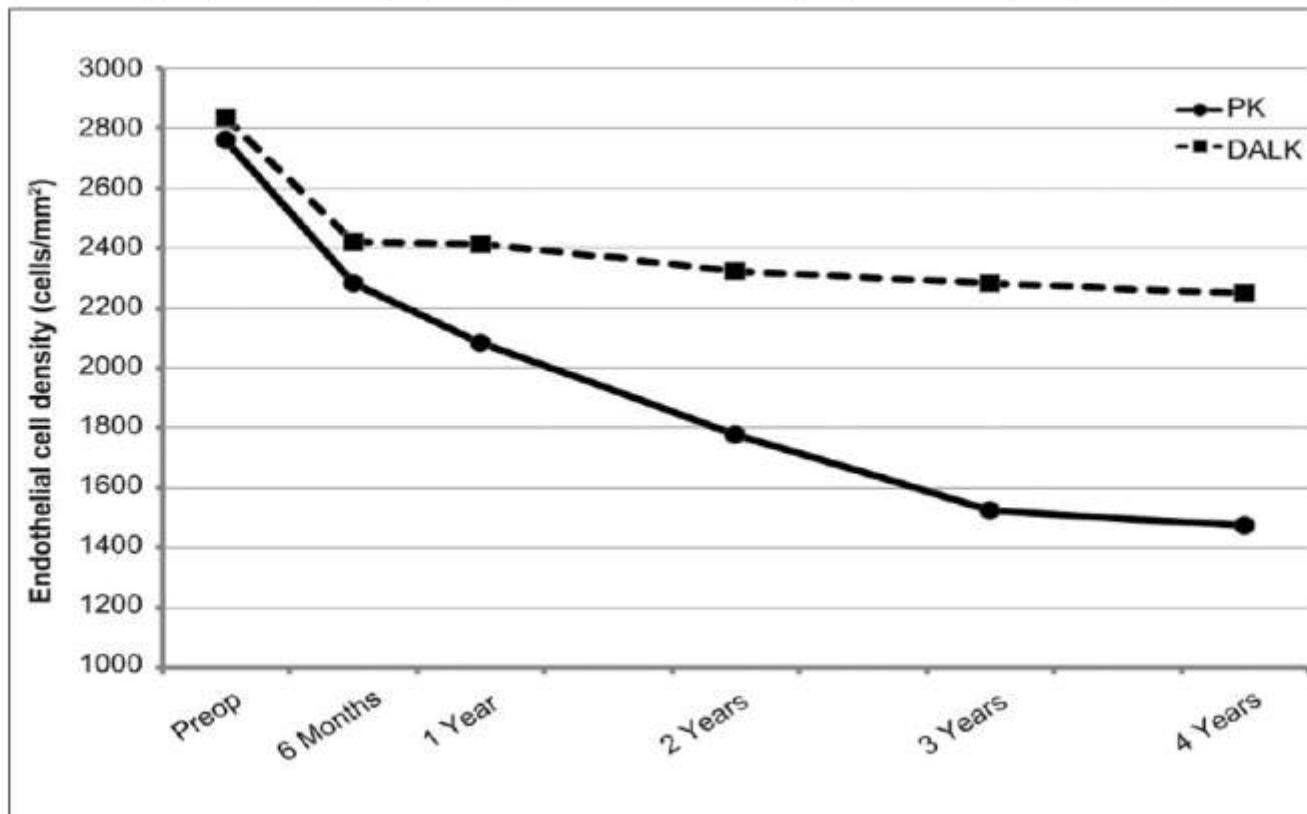
Uncorrected Visual acuity  
p-0.830 (NS)

Best corrected Visual acuity  
p-0.862 (NS)



# Endothelial cell rate loss

Figure 1: Endothelial cell density after penetrating keratoplasty and deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (PK: penetrating keratoplasty, DALK: deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty)



# Astigmatism

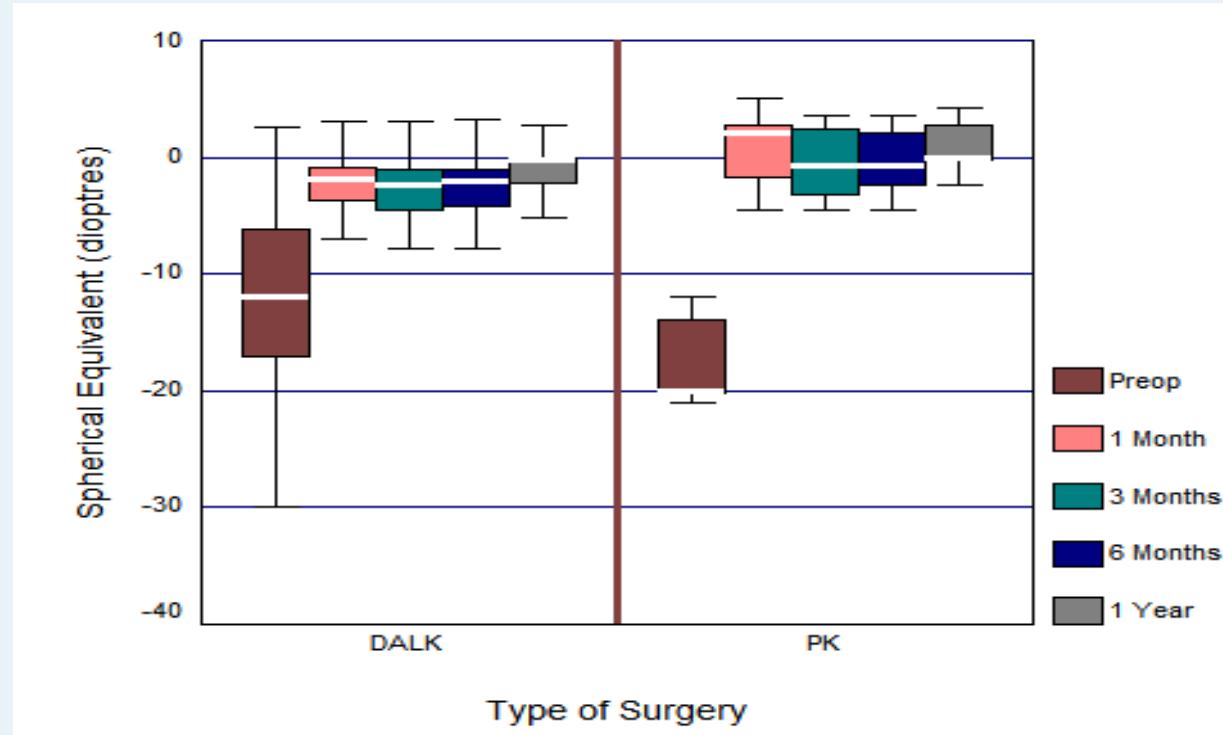
	DALK	PKP	
Krumeich	2.9	3.5	automated
Rama 2012	2.27		Melles
Tan	2.7	3.5	BB
Hamdi	2.8 -3.8 (1-2/12)	2.88-3.18	Hydro v pkp
DLCTS	3.38	4.1	BB
Coombs	3.85		BB+Hydro
Noble			Melles
Vabres	3 D	3.5 D	BB vs PKP

I ❤️

DALK

K.S. Siddharthan  
et al 2011

# Spherical Equivalent



- Sarnicola et al retrospective study of 660 consecutive DALK procedures in 502 patients with a mean follow-up of 4.5 years (range, 6 months to 10 years).
- Average graft survival rate was 99.3%.
- Endothelial cell loss averaged 11.0% at final follow-up.
- Endothelial cell density was unchanged between 6 months postoperative and the last follow-up visit.



Author	n.	rejection	graft failure	re-graft
Coombes AG 2001	44	0	0	0
Watson SL 2005	25	2 (8%)	0	0
Al-Torbak A 2006	127	4 (3%)	0	0
Watson SL 2006	-	7	2	0
Fontana L 2006	78	2 (2.5%)	0	0
Noble BA 2007	58	6 (10%)	0	0
Javadi MA 2010	46	10 (23.8%)	0	0
Kubaloglu A 2011	234	4 (1.7%)	0	0
Smadja D 2012	37	0 (0%)	0	0



# Randomized Clinical Trial of Deep Lamellar Keratoplasty Vs Penetrating Keratoplasty

JUN SHIMAZAKI, MD, SHIGETO SHIMMURA, MD, MISAKI ISHIOKA, MD,

I  DALK

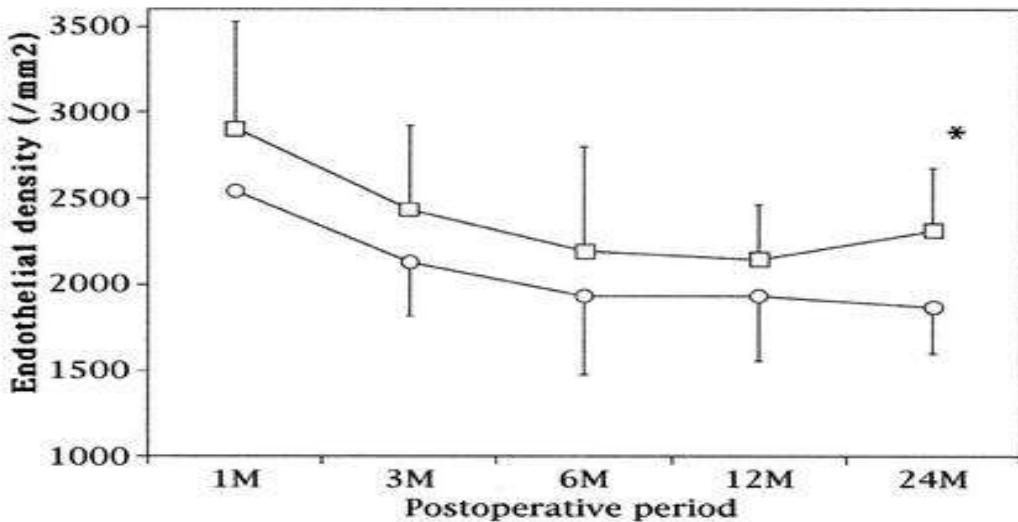


FIGURE 5. Mean endothelial density from 1-24 months after deep lamellar keratoplasty (DLKP) (squares) and penetrating keratoplasty (PKP) (circles). At 24 months following surgery, endothelial density was significantly higher in the DLKP group than the PKP group ( $P = .044$ . =).





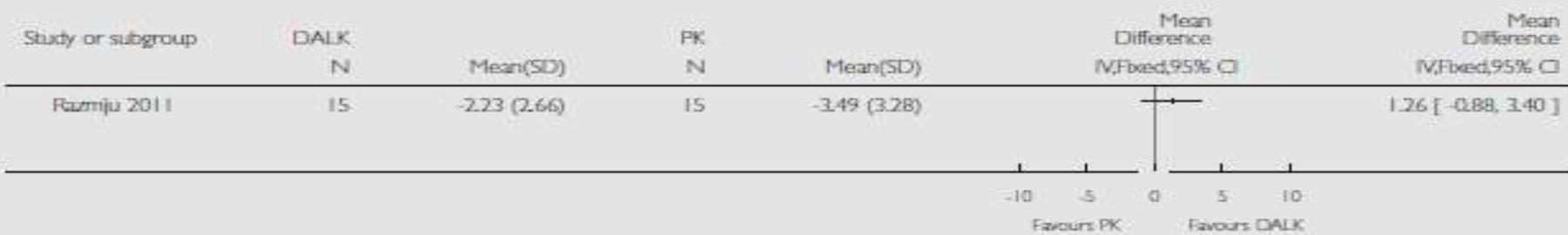
**Cochrane  
Library**

**Analysis 1.9. Comparison I Deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) versus penetrating keratoplasty (PK), Outcome 9 Postoperative spherical equivalent (12 months) (D).**

Review: Deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty versus penetrating keratoplasty for treating keratoconus

Comparison: I Deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) versus penetrating keratoplasty (PK)

Outcome: 9 Postoperative spherical equivalent (12 months) (D)

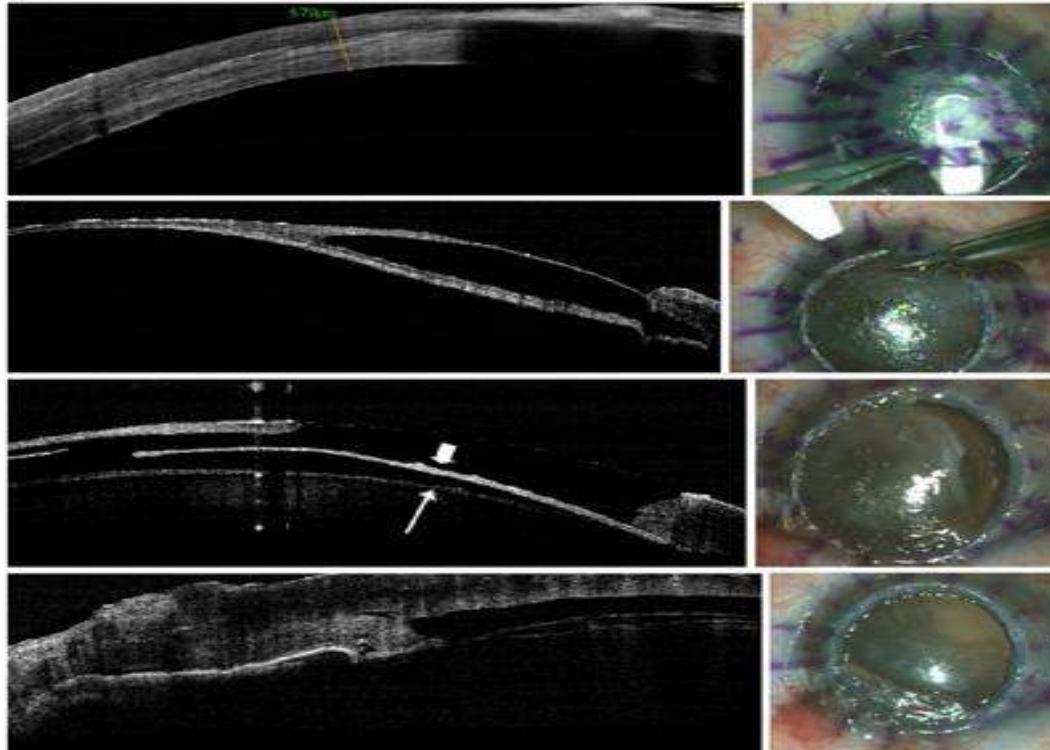


- Improving DALK incorporating new technologies



# Intraoperative Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography: A Novel Assessment Tool during Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty

LAURA DE BENITO-LLOPIS, JODHBIR S. MEHTA, ROMESH I. ANGUNAWELA, MARCUS ANG, AND DONALD T.H. TAN



# Femtosecond assisted ?

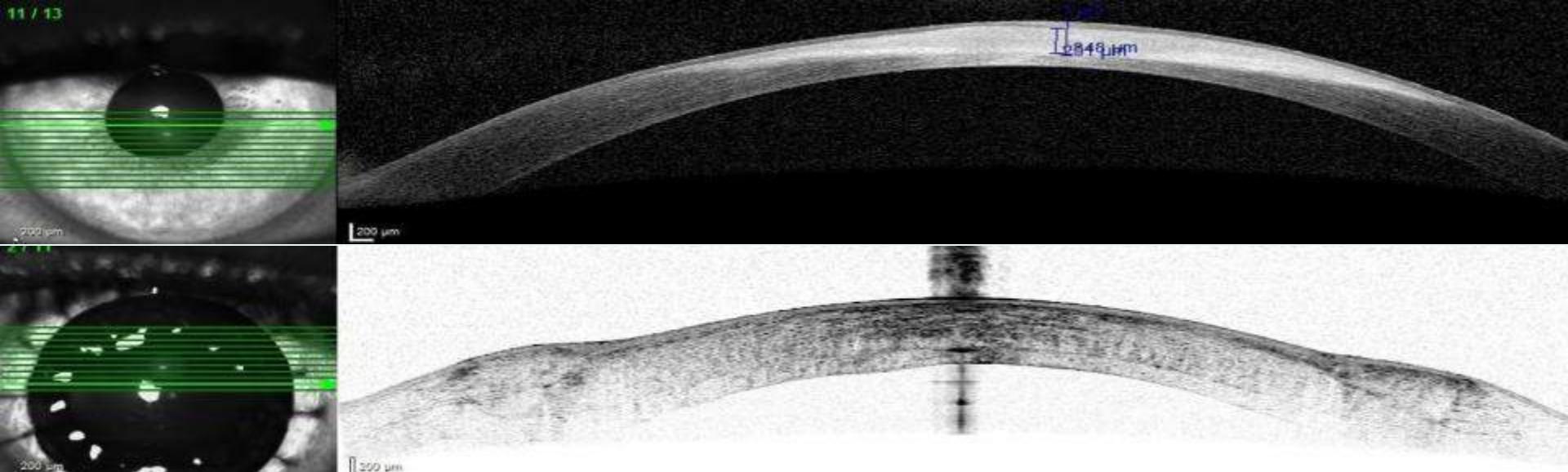
## Why yes

- Lamellar keratoplasty.  
Surgically demanding  
technique
- Easier to perform with Femto
- Pre planned dimensions and  
accurate results
- New designs
  - Top hat lamellar
  - intralamellar

## Why not

- Endothelial damage
- Interface reaction
- Penetration through  
opacities
- Expensive





# CLAT





Σας ευχαριστώ





Σας ευχαριστώ

