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Combined femtosecond laser assisted intracorneal rings (ICR) implantation and cross linking for keratoconus management: Safety, visual outcome and corneal biomechanics changes

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Purpose: To evaluate safety, efficacy and corneal biomechanics change of combined intracorneal rings (ICR) implanted using femtosecond laser and cross linking in keratoconus patients.

Methods: Prospective non comparative case series. Patients were treated with same setting ICR implanted by femtosecond laser and 5 minutes epi-off cross linking. UCVA, BSCVA, K reading, CH and CRF were measured in all cases before surgery and after 3, 6 months and 1 year of follow up of 1182 eyes of 713 keratoconus patients with moderate keratoconus.

Results: Mean preoperative uncorrected visual acuity (UCVA), best spectacle corrected visual acuity (BSCVA), corneal curvature (k readings) were 0 .2, 0.5 and 53 respectively. Mean corneal hysteresis (CH) and corneal resistance factor (CRF) were 6.7 and 7.1 respectively.

Conclusion: ICR implanted using femtosecond laser and cross linking in keratoconus patients is a safe and effective procedure with long term stability and has a good impact on corneal biomechanics.

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