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Recurrence of herpetic keratitis after deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty for lipid keratopathy

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Purpose: DALK is technically more challenging than PK, besides, has similarly the risk of postoperative HSV keratitis recurrence.

Methods: In this retrospective study, we reviewed the clinical records of 12 elderly patients with sight-threatening sequelae of HSV keratitis (huge and deep layers stromal scarring, neovascularization and lipid deposition without anterior chamber inflammation) that underwent DALK by one surgeon at the ophthalmology department, Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan, between January 2014 and April 2015 with a postoperative follow-up of at least 12 months.

Results: In our series, one of 12 eligible patients experienced HSV stromal keratitis recurrence within 12 months.

Conclusion: 8.3% of cases without systemic antiviral prophylaxis encountered one episode of recurrence. Further and longer interventions are necessary to compare the benefits or disadvantages of long-term, low-dose systemic antiviral agents in such elderly HSV keratitis cases undergoing DALK.

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