

Study on Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency

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DESCRIPTION

A 65-year-old patient presented with a pterygium with low visual acuity in the left eye. The clinical examination reveals that the patient's visual acuity was reducing to Counting Fingers (CF). The examination of the anterior segment showed a grade III bipolar pterygium with symblepharon.

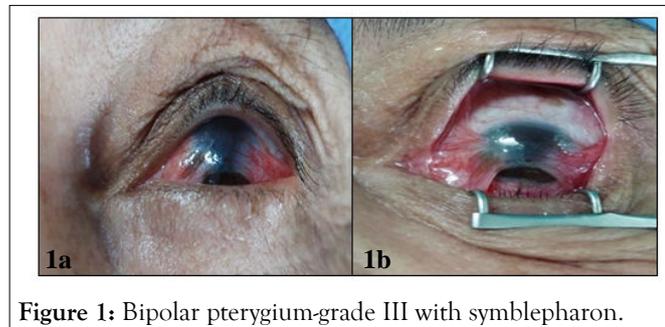


Figure 1: Bipolar pterygium-grade III with symblepharon.

An Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) of the anterior segment showed a stromal infiltration of the pterygium. The

surgical procedure consisted of a pterygium excision with the application of 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and a symplepharon release. A pterygium is a benign conjunctival fibro-vascular lesion. It's encroaching progressively on the cornea and can become disabling [1]. The destruction of the limbus during the limbal stem cell deficiency involves a loss of its functions: The corneal epithelium can no longer regenerate by destruction of the limbal stem cell contingent and the limbic barrier can no longer contest against conjunctivalization [2,3] (Figure 1).

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