

## Evolution of Herpes Simplex Virus Epithelial Keratitis

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE CLINICAL IMAGE

39 years old female patient, who presented with ocular pain and foreign body sensation on her left eye (OS) for two weeks, she started on her own tobramycin/dexamethasone ointment bid. Visual acuity in OS was 20/40, intraocular pressure 16 mmHg, ophthalmological examination revealed a quiet conjunctiva, the presence of corneal epithelial dendritic ulcers with terminal bulbs that stain with fluorescein (panel A), deep anterior chamber with no cells, the rest of the ocular examination was unremarkable. Herpes simplex epithelial keratitis was diagnosed, oral Valacyclovir 500mg bid was started and the ointment was suspended (Figure 1). Clinical improvement was evident at 72 hours (panel B) and complete resolution of the ulcers at 10 day with visual acuity improvement to 20/20 (panel C).

This case highlights the importance of making an early diagnosis and adequate treatment for epithelial herpes simplex keratitis. It is imperative to suspend the ocular steroids and promptly start an antiviral to avoid complications.

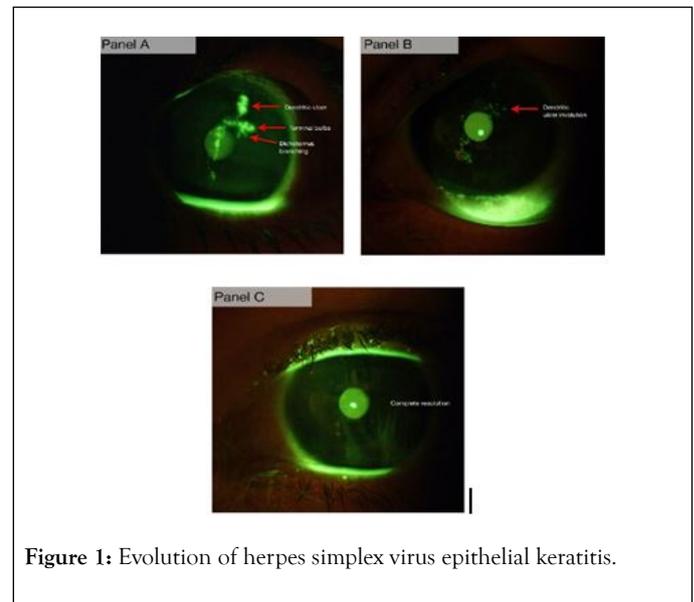


Figure 1: Evolution of herpes simplex virus epithelial keratitis.

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**Received date:** June 30, 2020; **Accepted date:** July 14, 2020; **Published date:** July 21, 2020

**Citation:** Azses-Halabe Y, Gamiochipi-Arjona JE, Meziner-Grezamkovsky D (2020) Awareness among Visually Disabled Individuals. J Eye Dis Disord 5:139. doi: 10.35248/2684-1622.20.5.139

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