

# **“Possibilità terapeutiche del cross-linking e delle cheratoplastiche lamellari”**

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VII Corso S.I.B.O.  
L'Aquila, 24 Novembre 2012



GENNAIO 2004  
GIUGNO 2012



Banca degli Occhi  
di L'Aquila

Centro di riferimento regionale  
per le donazioni e i trapianti di cornea



Quando la patologia corneale interessa solo alcuni strati corneali l'intervento di elezione è una

*cheratoplastica lamellare*

✓ Anteriore

ALK

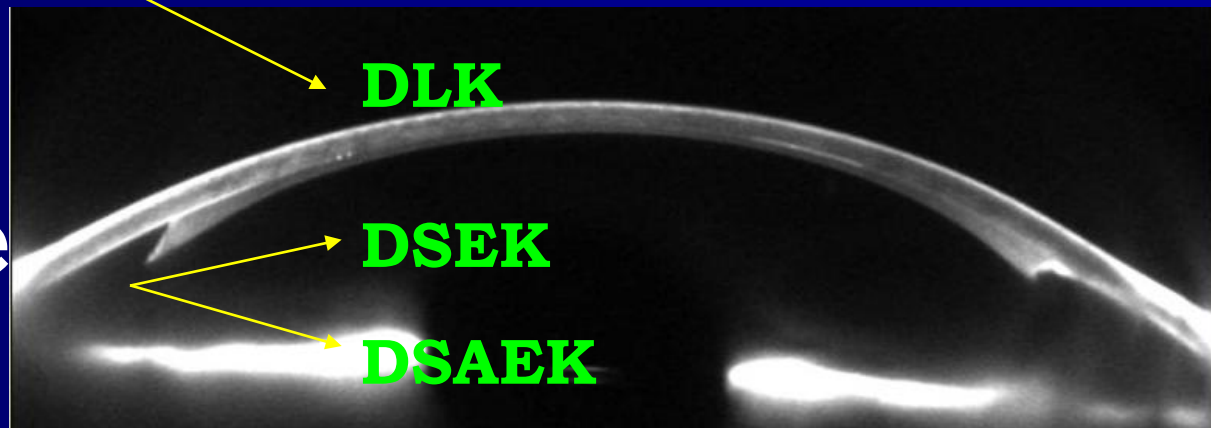
ELLK/CLAT

DLK

✓ Posteriore

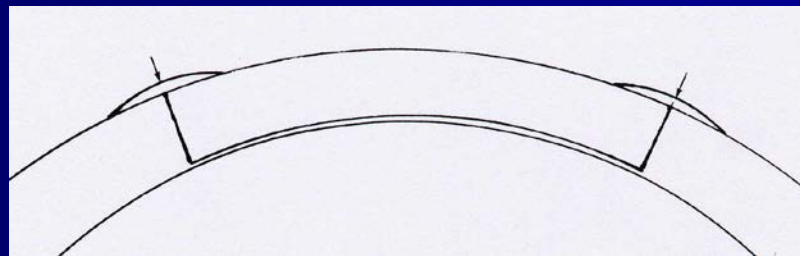
DSEK

DSAEK



# Cheratoplastica Lamellare (LK)

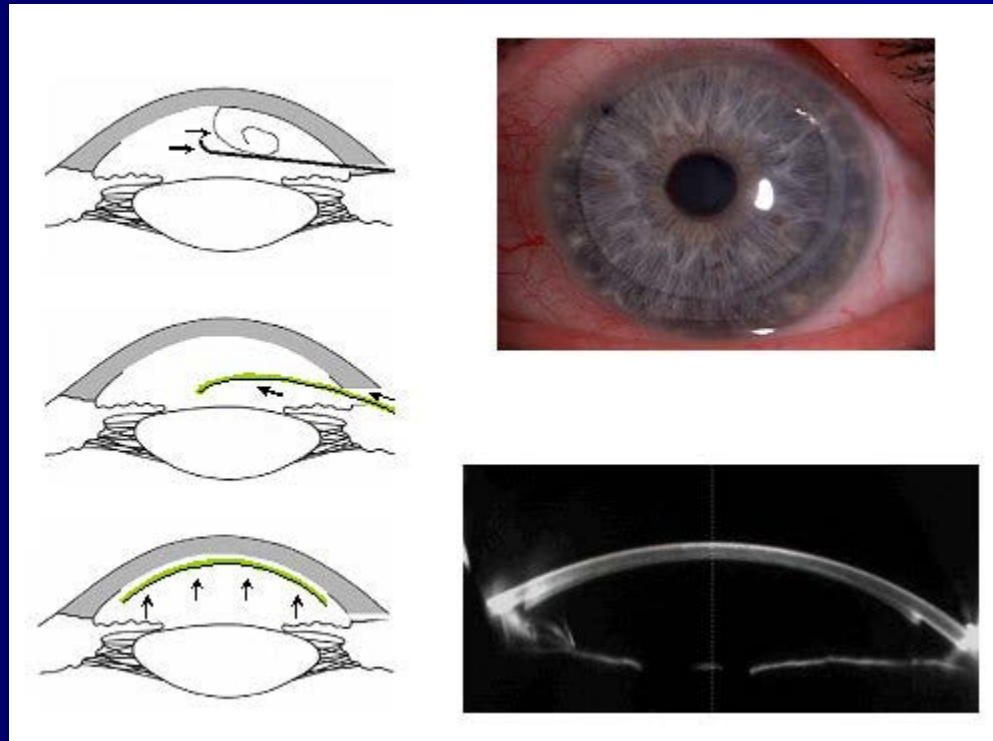
Consiste nella **rimozione di alcuni strati di cornea**, di spessore sufficiente per rimuovere il tessuto patologico, **sostituendoli con tessuto corneale donatore**



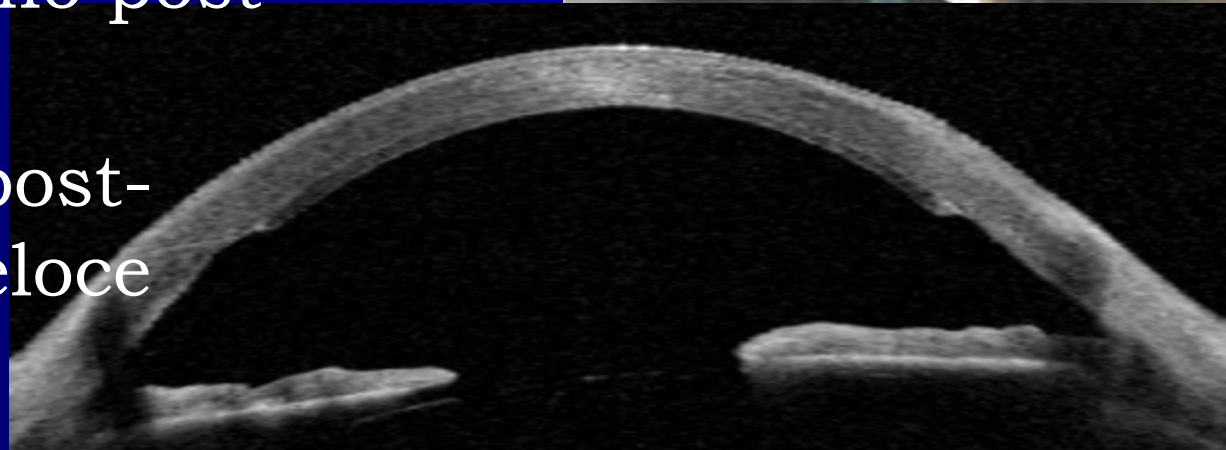
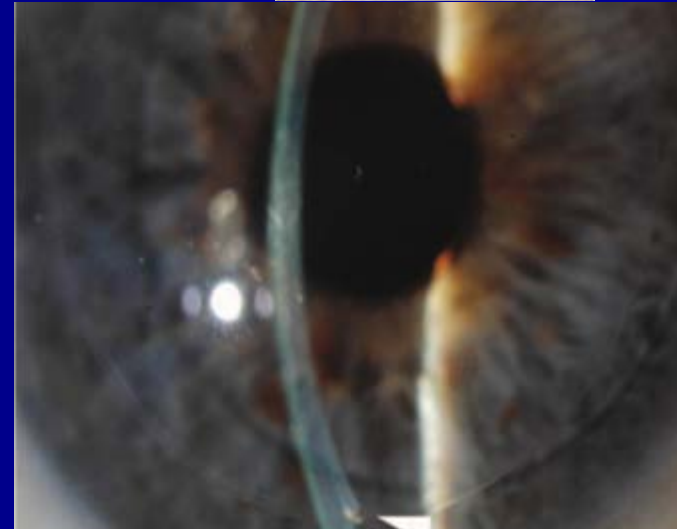
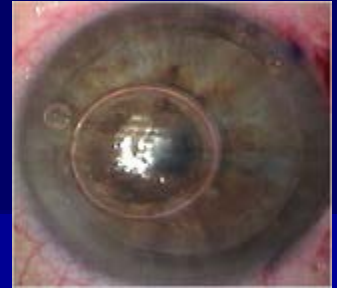
# Cheratoplastica Lamellare Endoteliale (EK)

**DSEK** (Descemet's Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty) -  
Frank Price

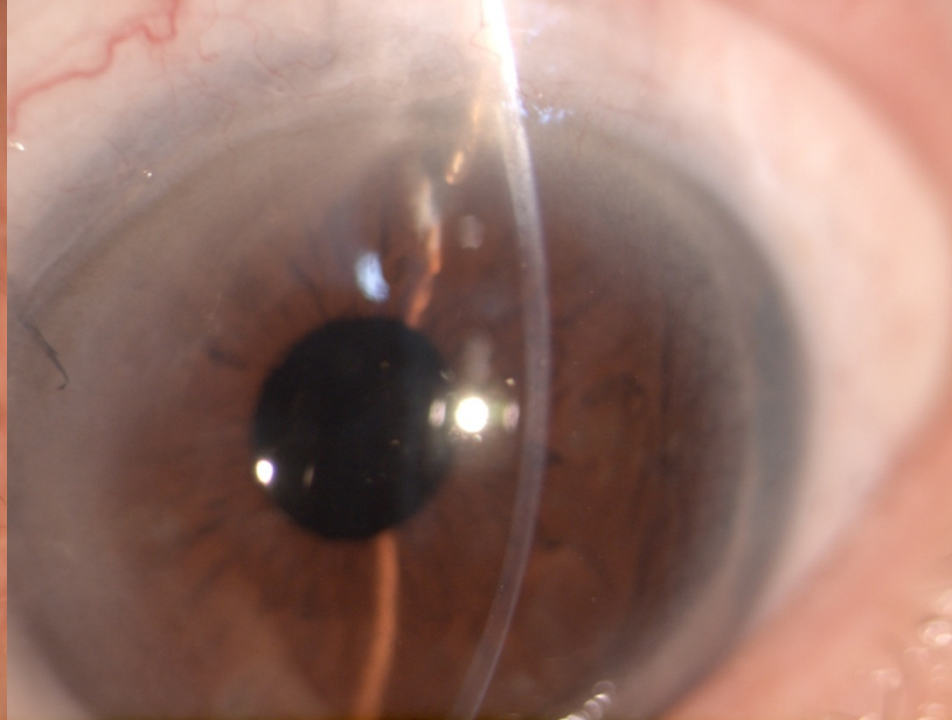
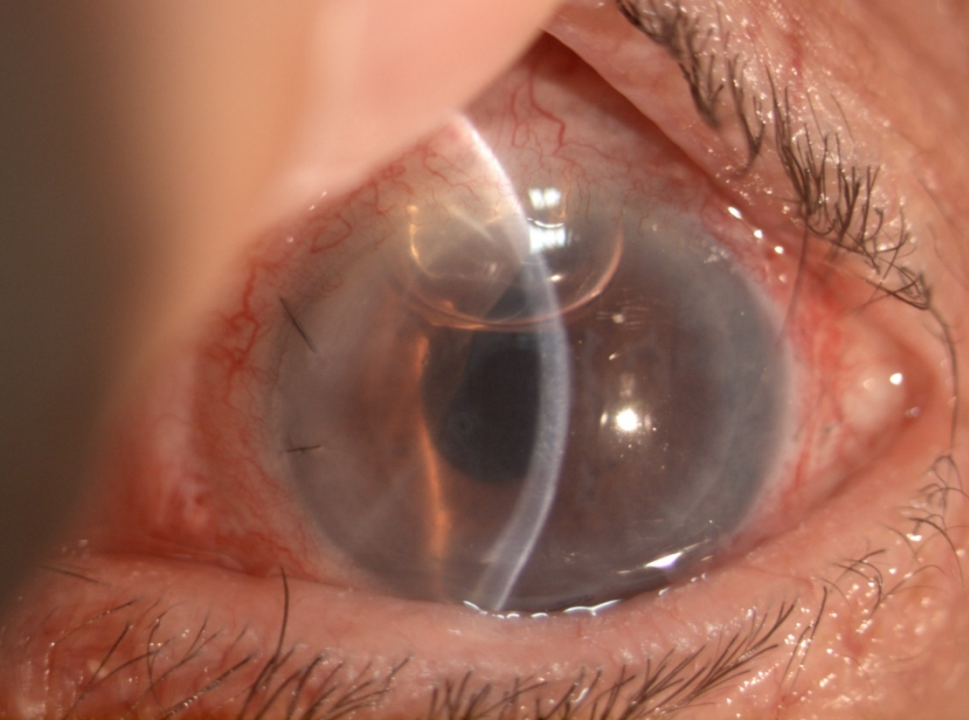
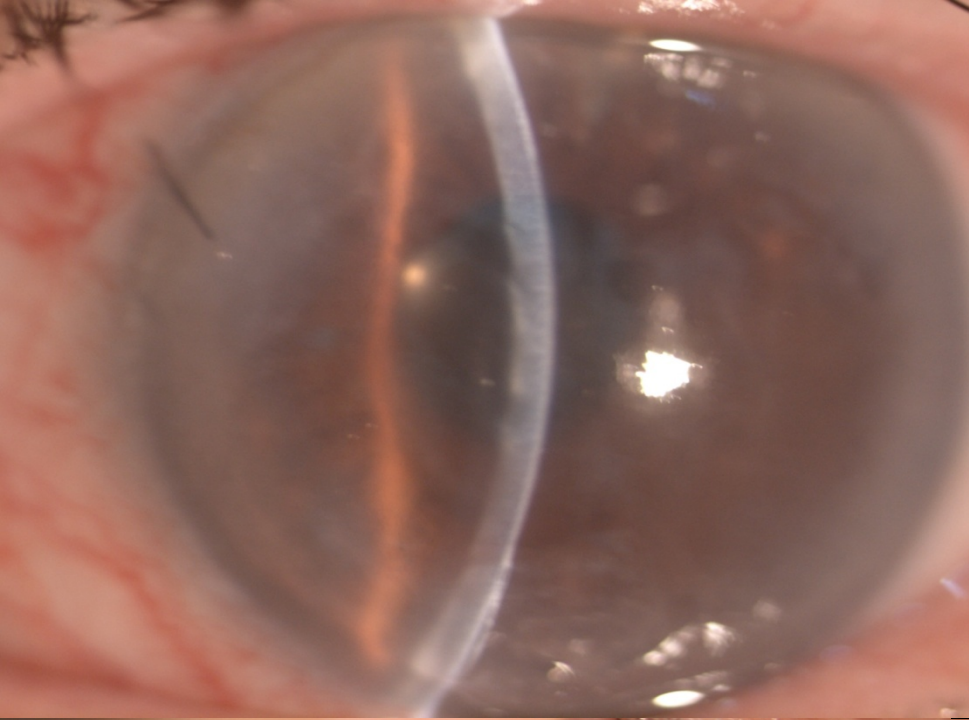
**DSAEK** (Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial  
Keratoplasty) - Mark Gorovoy



# Cheratoplastica Lamellare Endoteliale (EK)



- ✓ minor rischio di infezioni post-operatorie
- ✓ minor rischio di rigetto del trapianto (7.5% nella EK contro i 13% della PK)
- ✓ miglior risultato refrattivo con <astigmatismo post-operatorio
- ✓ recupero visivo post-intervento più veloce



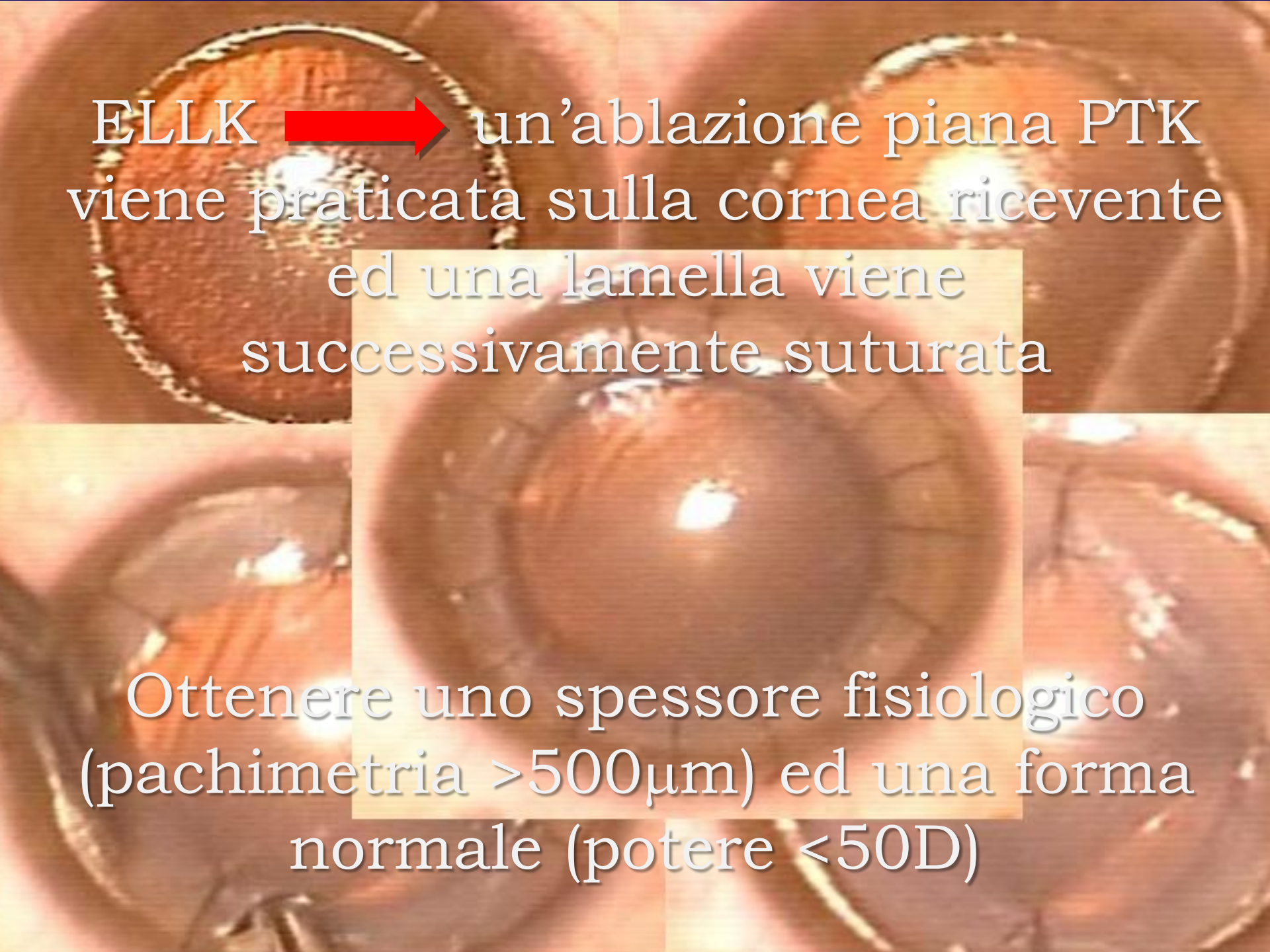
L'uso del *laser ad eccimeri* per rimodellare la cornea rappresenta la maggior innovazione nella chirurgia refrattiva

Per migliorare i risultati anatomici e funzionali della *cheratoplastica lamellare* nel cheratocono è stata messa a punto la **Excimer Laser Lamellar Keratoplasty (ELLK)** a spessori differenziati



*(Eckhardt HB 1996; Buratto L 1998;  
Bilgihan K 2006; Spadea L 2009)*





ELLK → un'ablazione piana PTK  
viene praticata sulla cornea ricevente  
ed una lamella viene  
successivamente suturata

Ottenere uno spessore fisiologico  
(pachimetria  $>500\mu\text{m}$ ) ed una forma  
normale (potere  $<50\text{D}$ )

# Excimer laser-assisted lamellar keratoplasty for the surgical treatment of keratoconus

Leopoldo Spadea, MD, Daniele Giammaria, MD, Arianna Fiasca, MD, Valerio Verrecchia, MD

*J Cataract Refract Surg* 2009; 35:105–112 © 2009 ASCRS and ESCRS

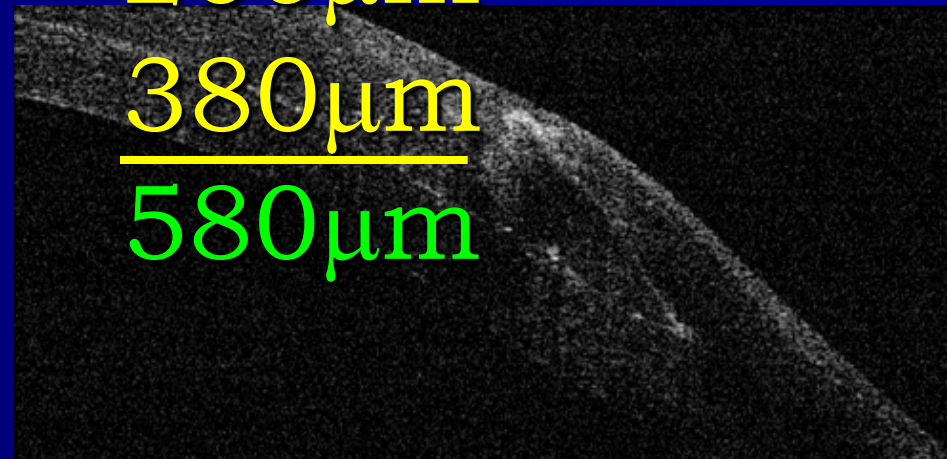
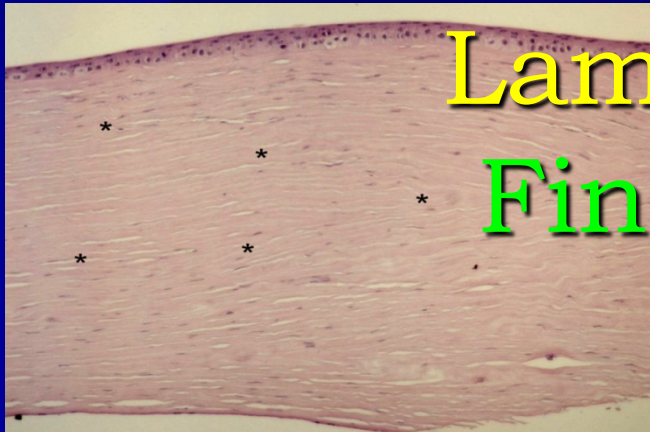
Esempio ELLK :

KC Cornea 400 $\mu$ m

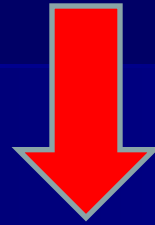
PTK abl. 200 $\mu$ m

Lamella 380 $\mu$ m

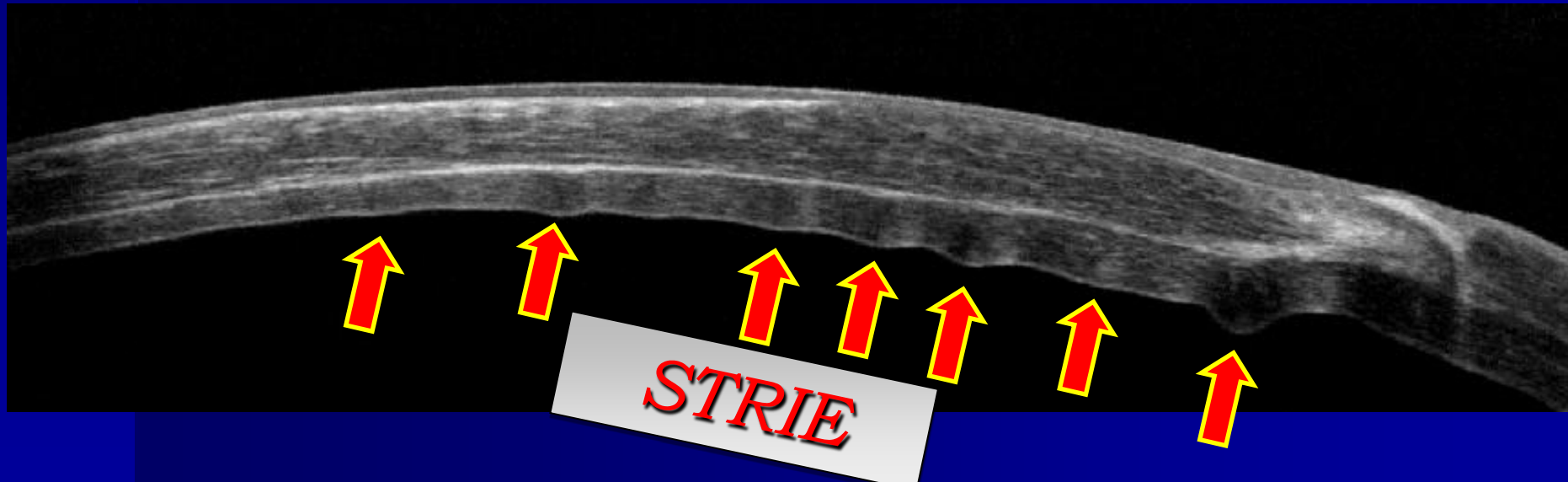
Finale 580 $\mu$ m



In alcuni casi l'effetto meccanico del  
KC originale persiste



ELLK è limitato ai casi di cheratocono lievi  
e moderati



Un nuova generazione di *laser ad eccimeri*  
con un software dedicato ai trapianti  
lamellari con il laser ci consente di fare  
delle

*ablazioni customizzate*

sia per il letto ricevente che per la lamella



CLAT®

*Corneal Lamellar  
Ablation for  
Transplantation*

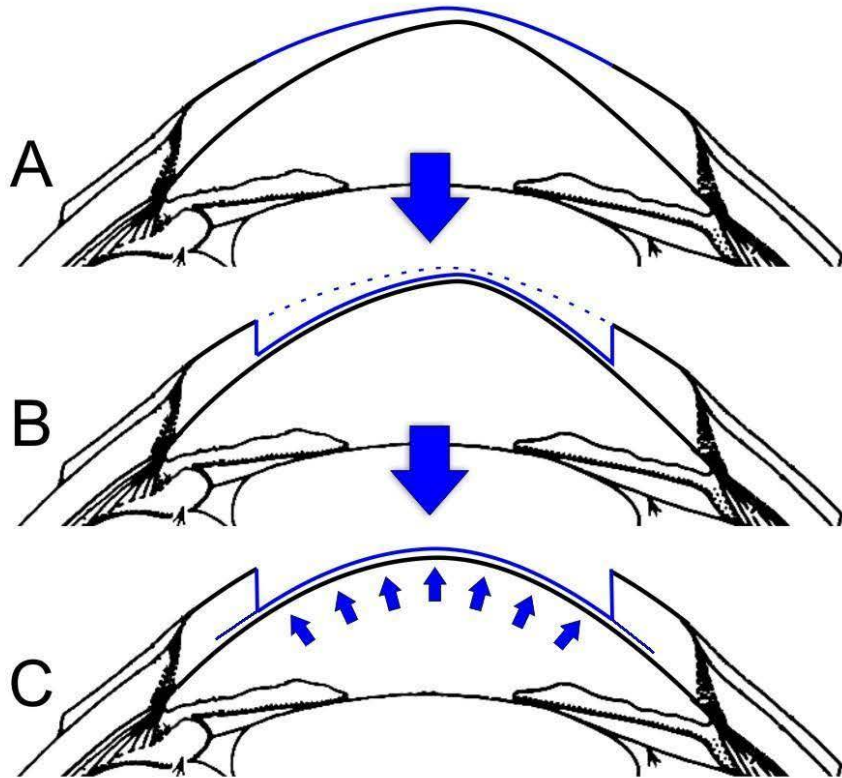
ARTICLE

Optical pachymetry-guided custom  
excimer laser-assisted lamellar keratoplasty  
for the surgical treatment of keratoconus

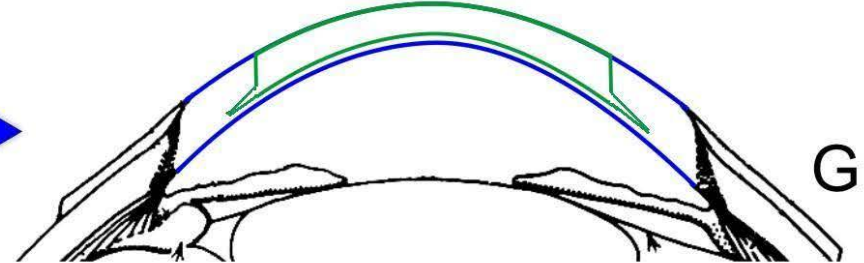
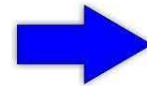
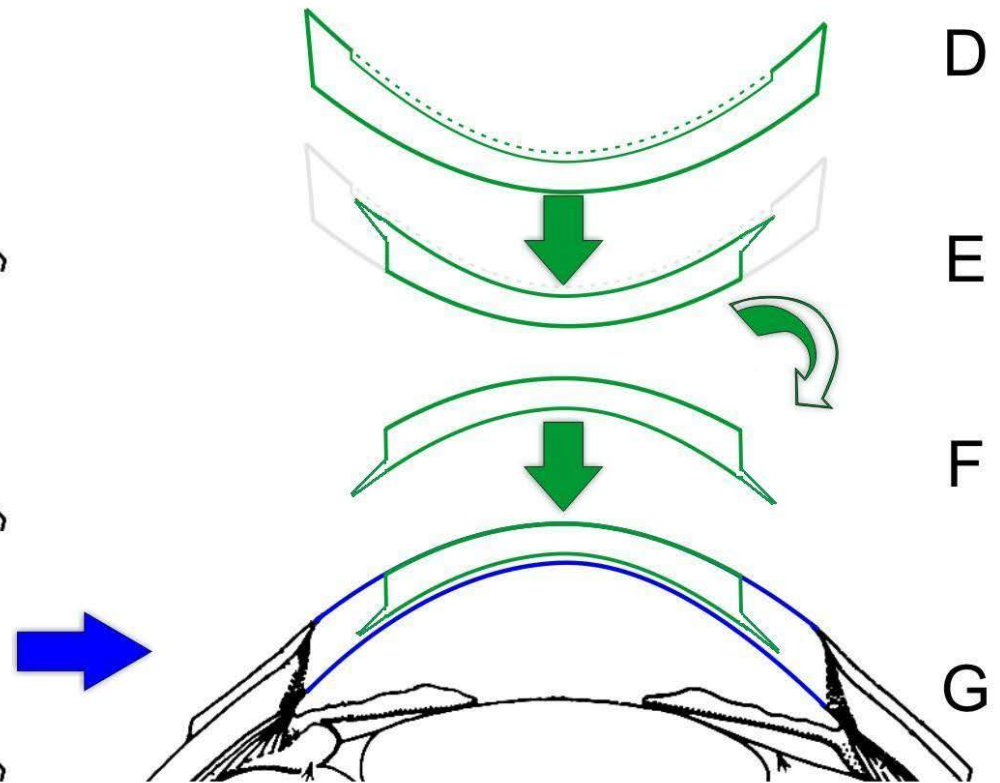
Leopoldo Spadea, MD, Riccardo Gizzi, MD, Nicole Evangelista Conocchia, MD, Sara Urbano, BS

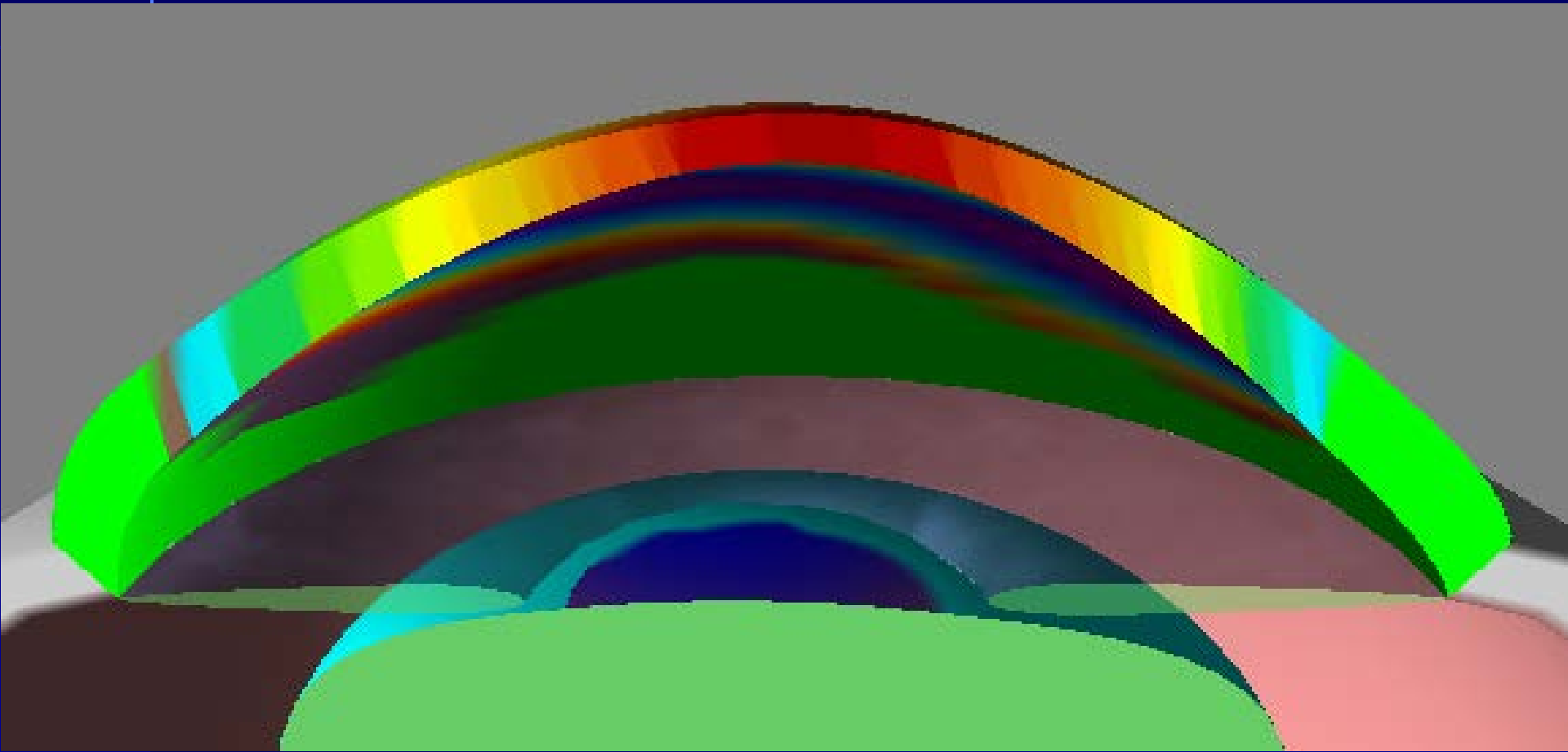
*J Cataract Refract Surg* 2012; 38:1559–1567 © 2012 ASCRS and ESCRS

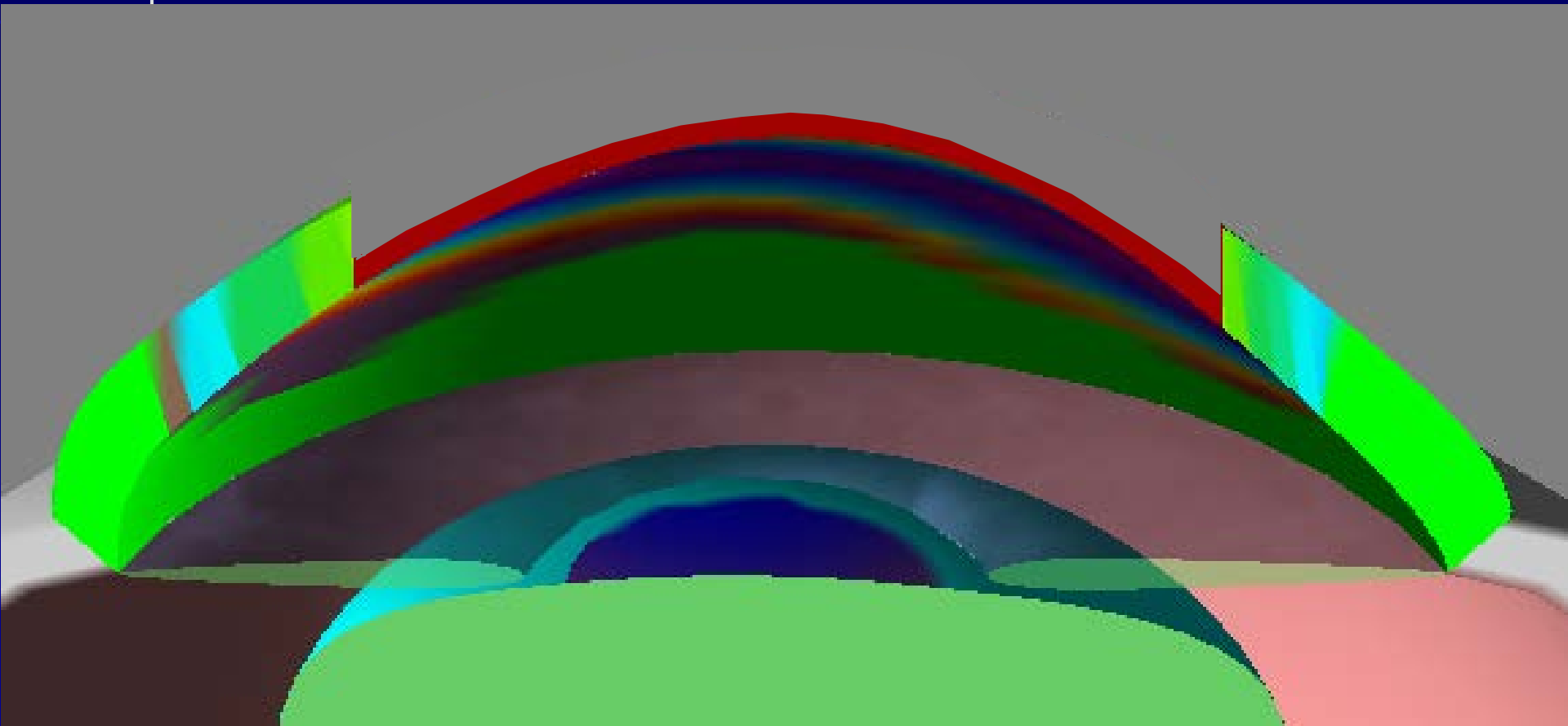
## Host Bed Preparation

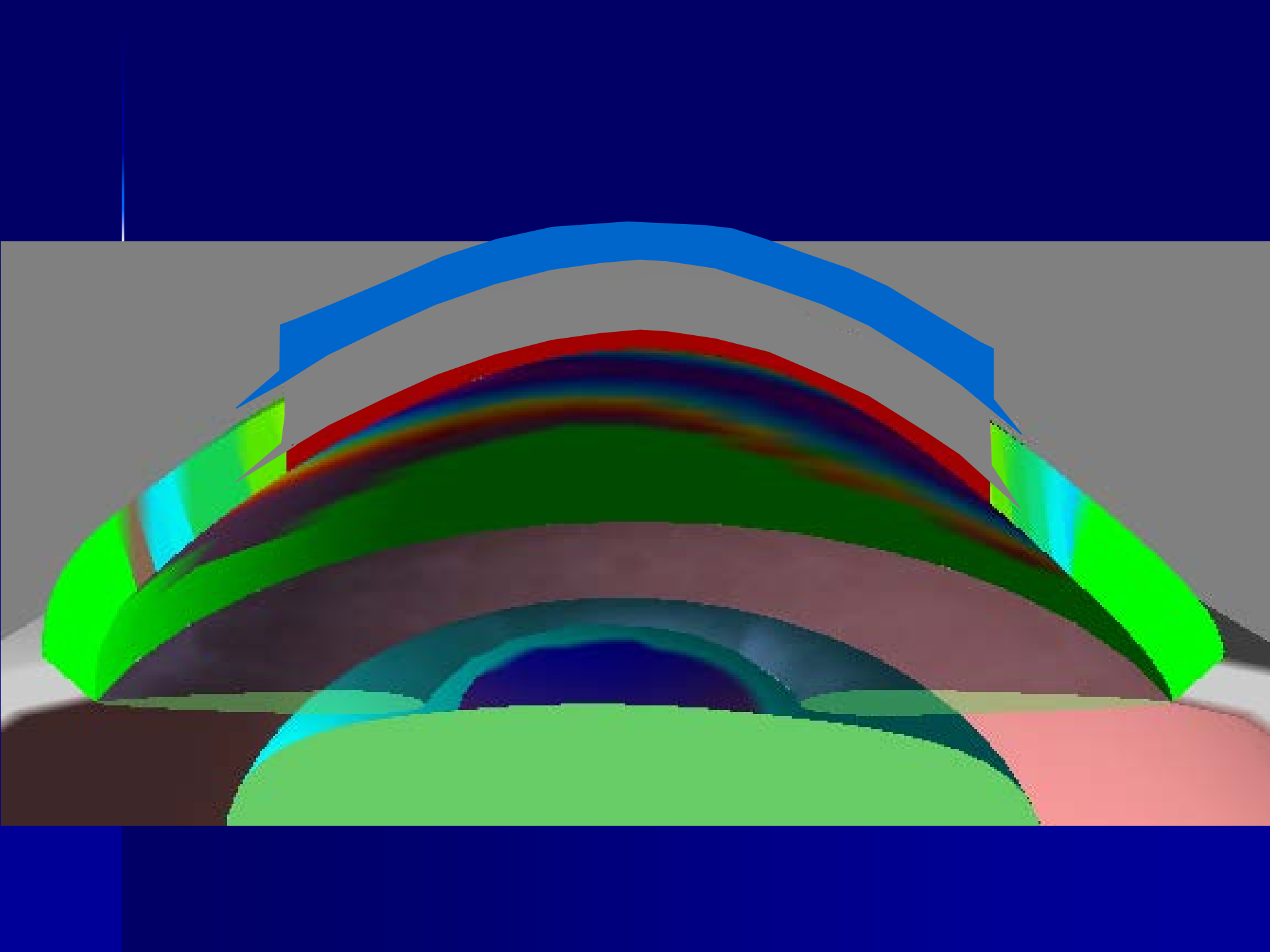


## Donor Lamella Preparation

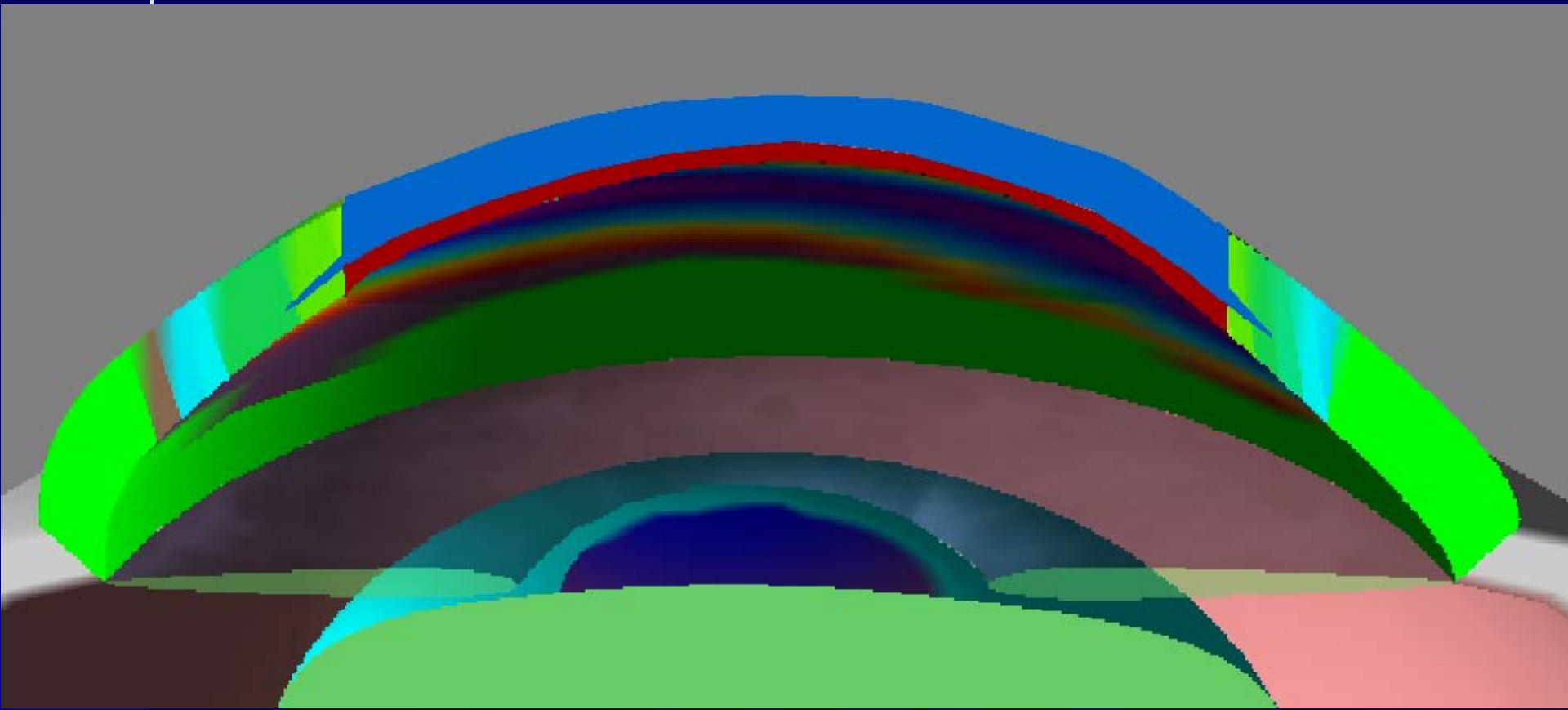


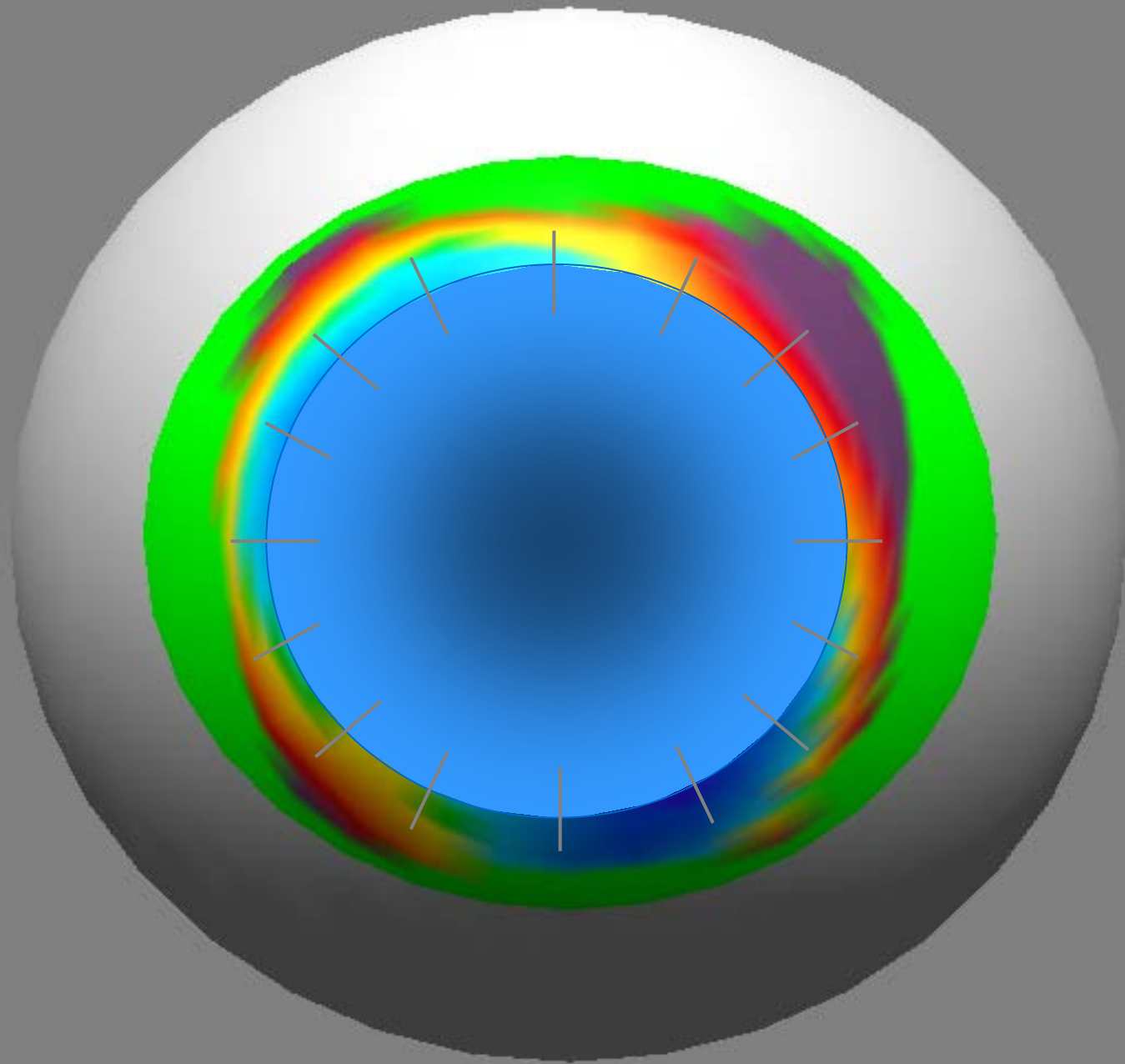


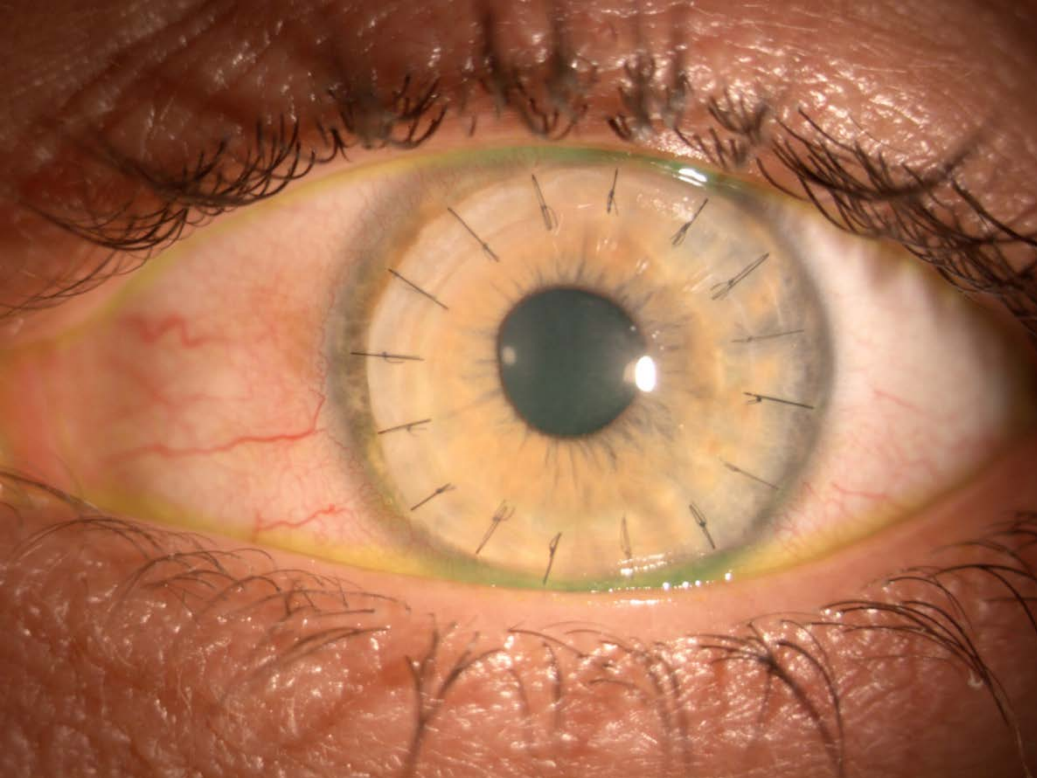




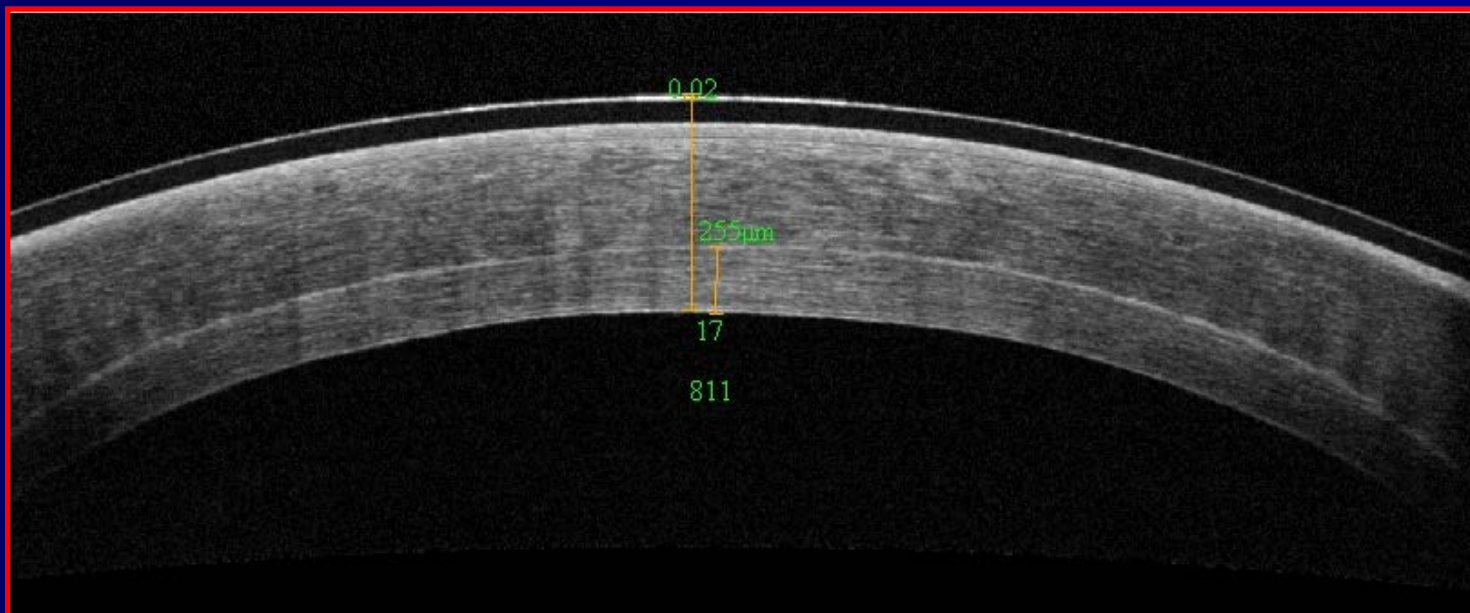




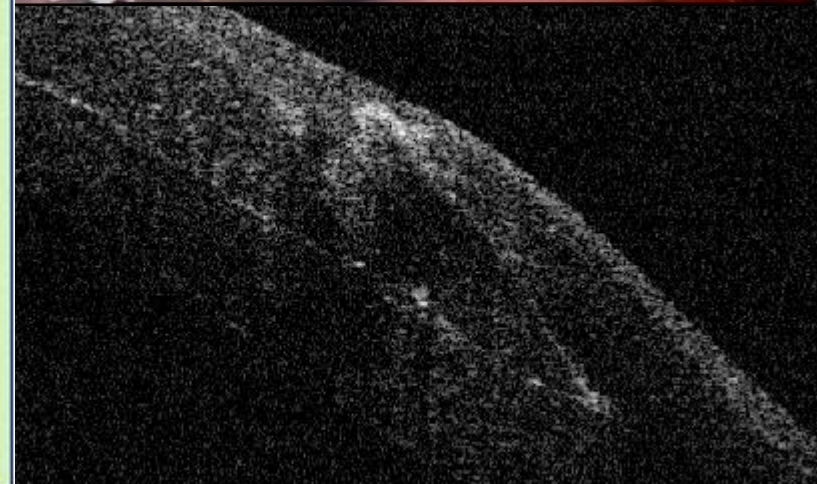
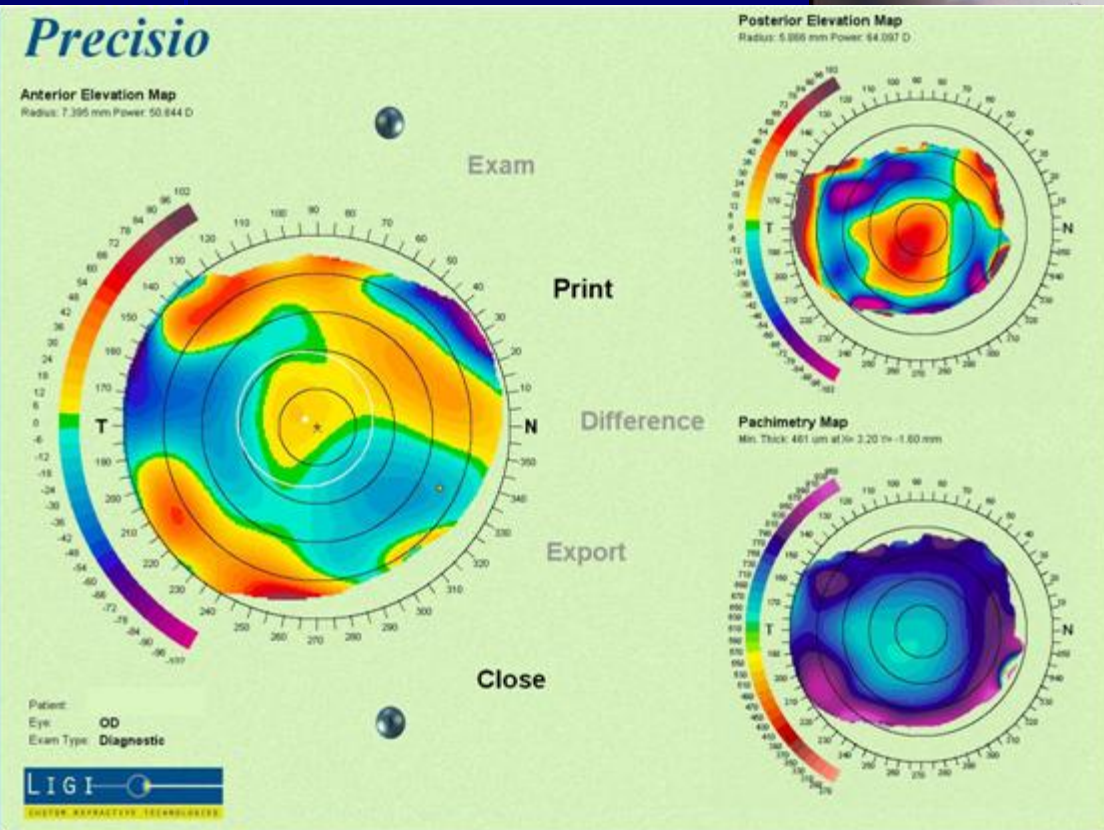
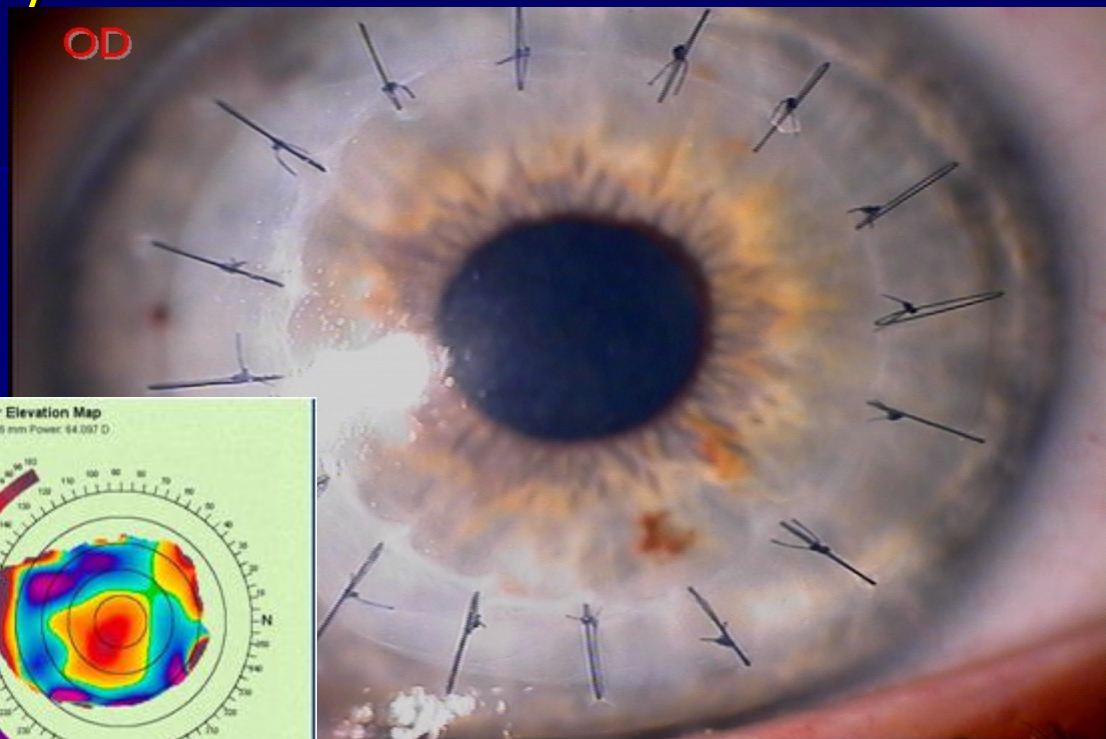




L.F. ♂ 34aa  
1 sett post-CLAT  
UCVA 4/10

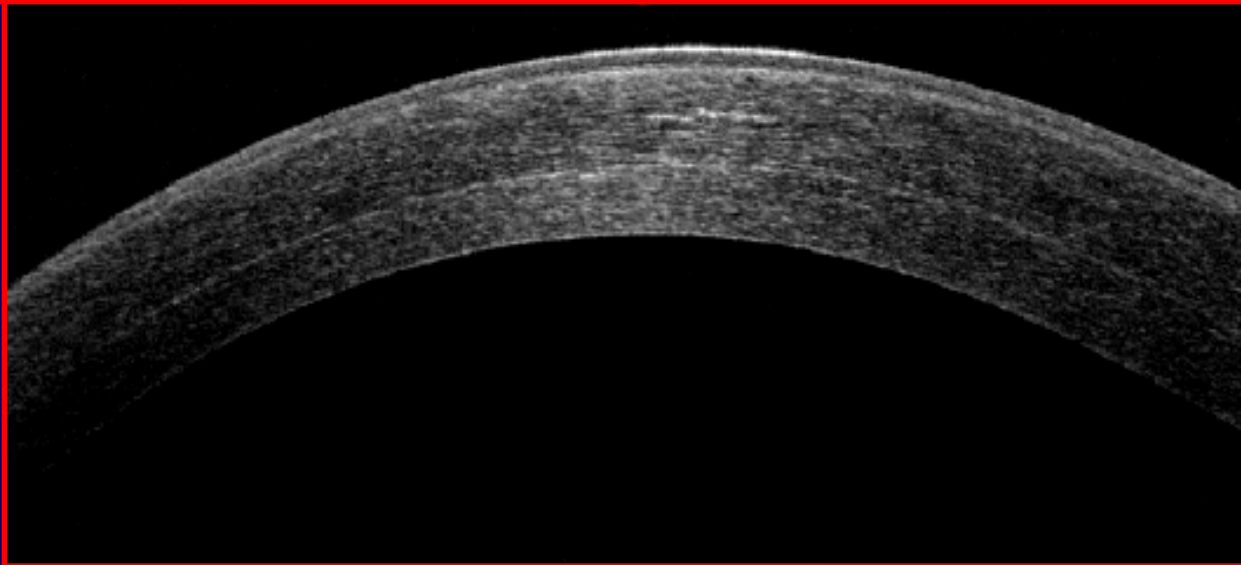
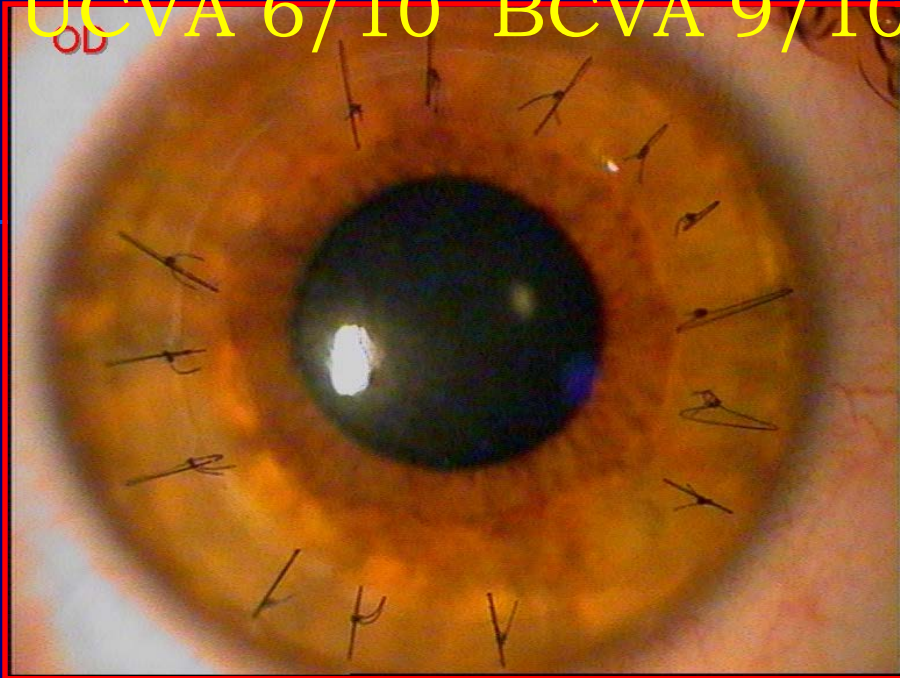


S.P. ♀ 24aa 2m post-CLAT  
UCVA 3/10 BCVA 6/10



R.O. ♂ 29aa 6m post-CLAT

UCVA 6/10 BCVA 9/10

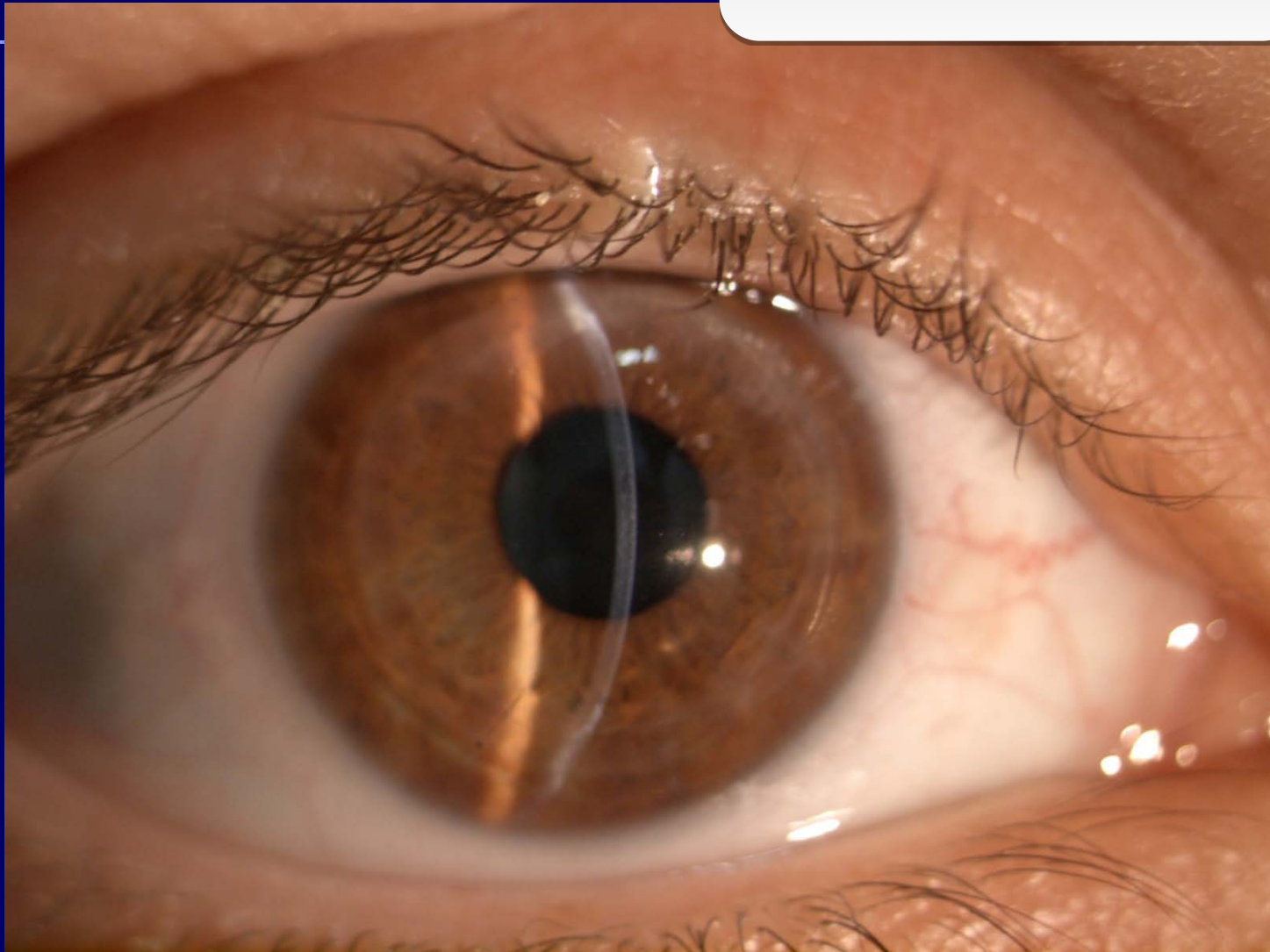


C.D. ♂ 27aa

3 aa post-CLAT

UCVA 6/10


BCVA 10/10



# C.M. ♂ 39aa OD 2aa post-CLAT



Endotelio



Stroma residuo predescemetico



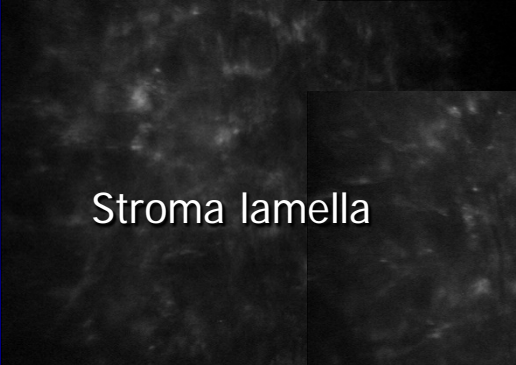
Stroma residuo



Stroma residuo  
all'interfaccia



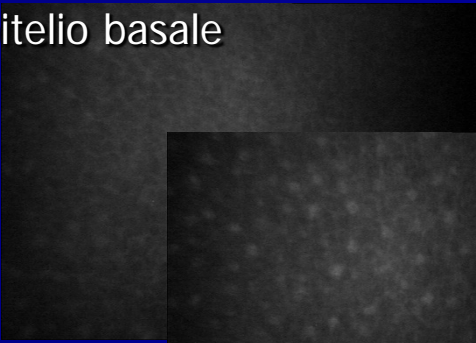
Interfaccia



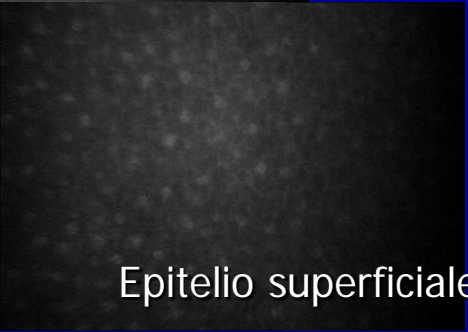
Stroma lamella



Stroma subepiteliale

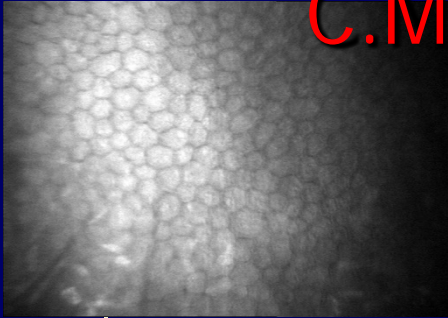


Epitelio basale

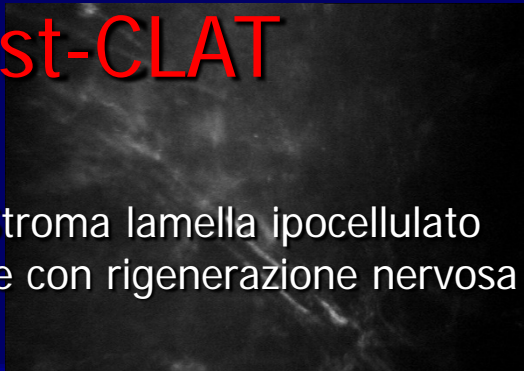


Epitelio superficiale

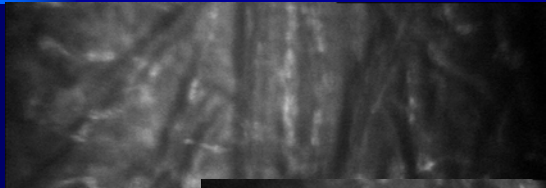
# C.M. ♂ 39aa OS 2m post-CLAT



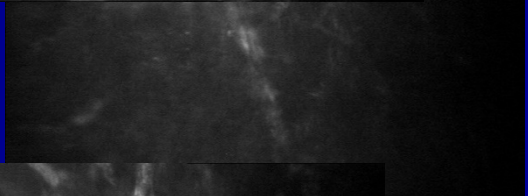
Endotelio



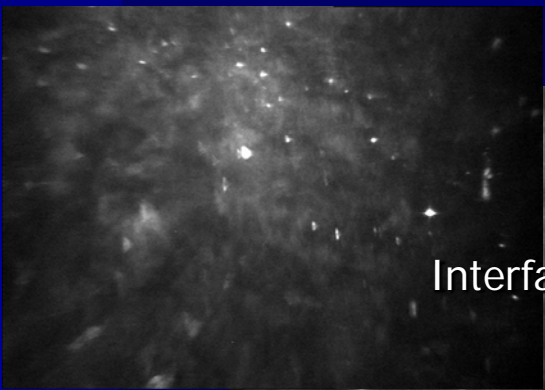
Stroma lamella ipocellulato e con rigenerazione nervosa



Stroma residuo con striae da tensione delle suture



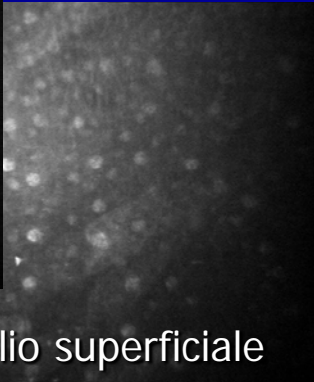
Stroma lamella ant in ripopolamento



Interfaccia



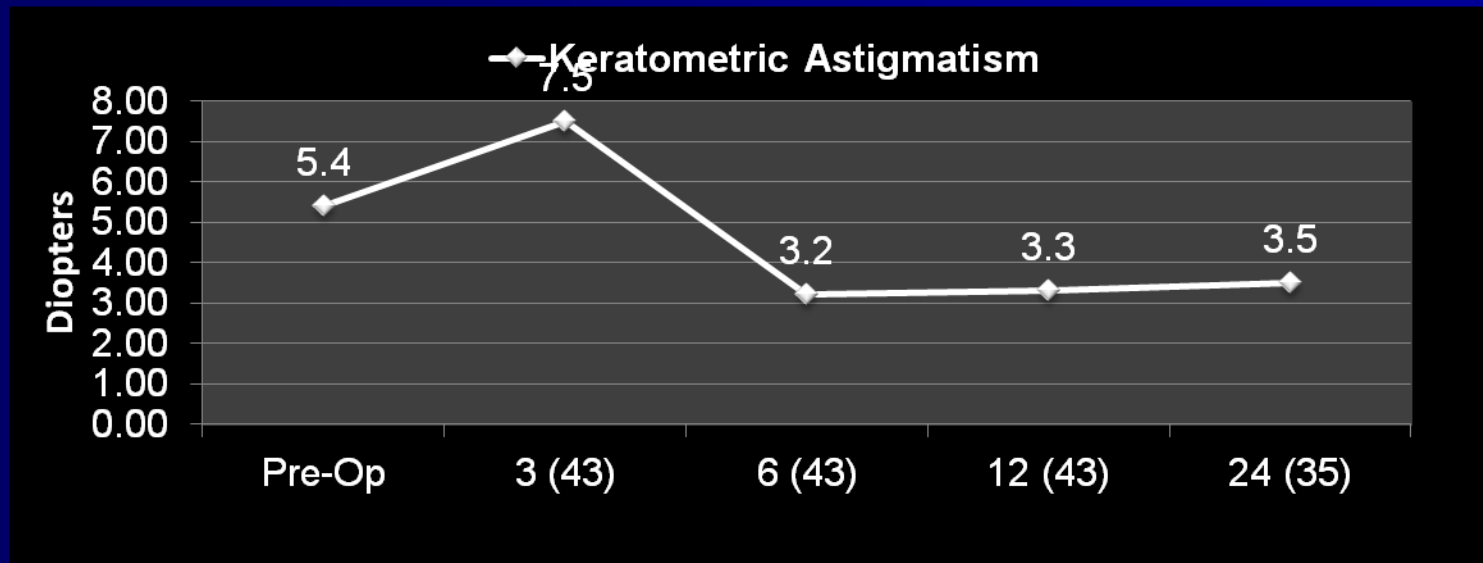
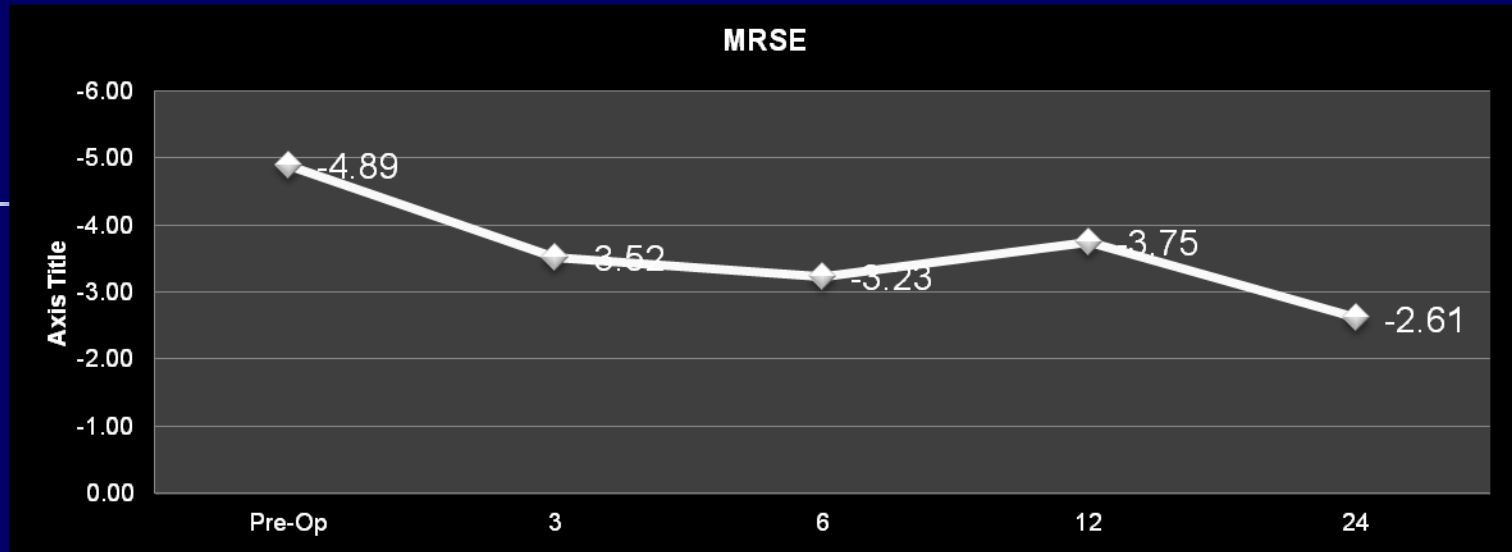
Epitelio basale



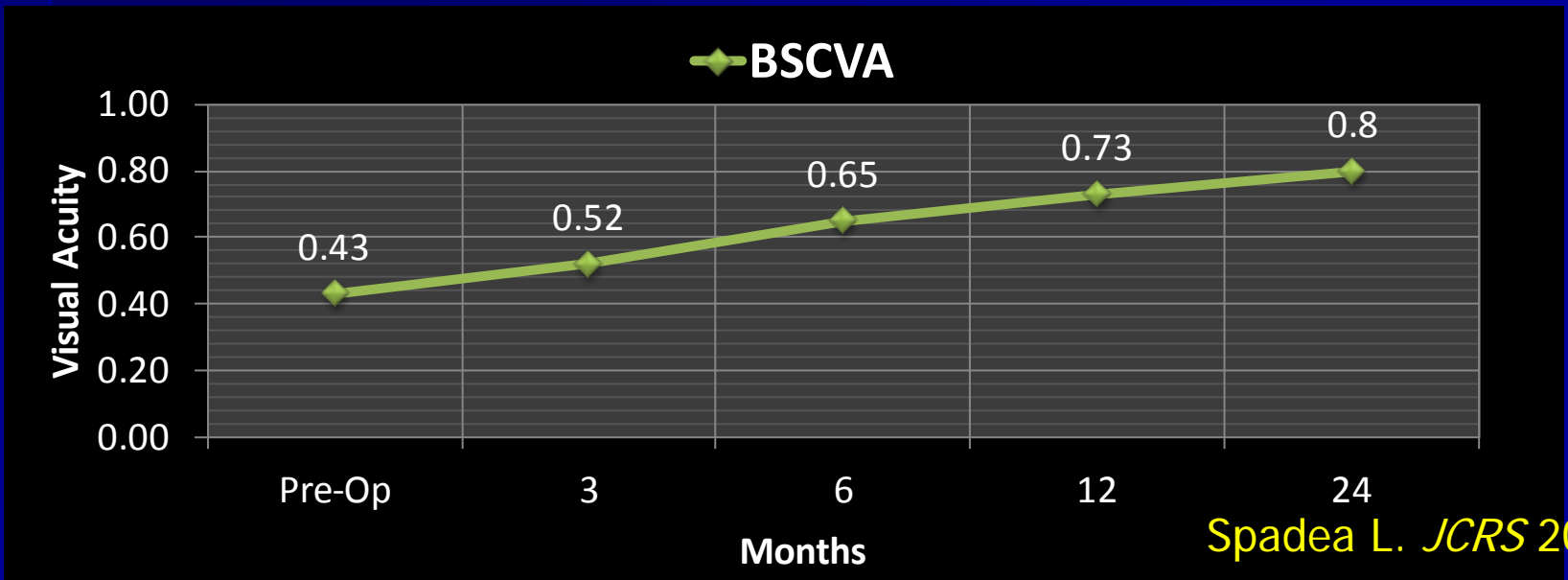
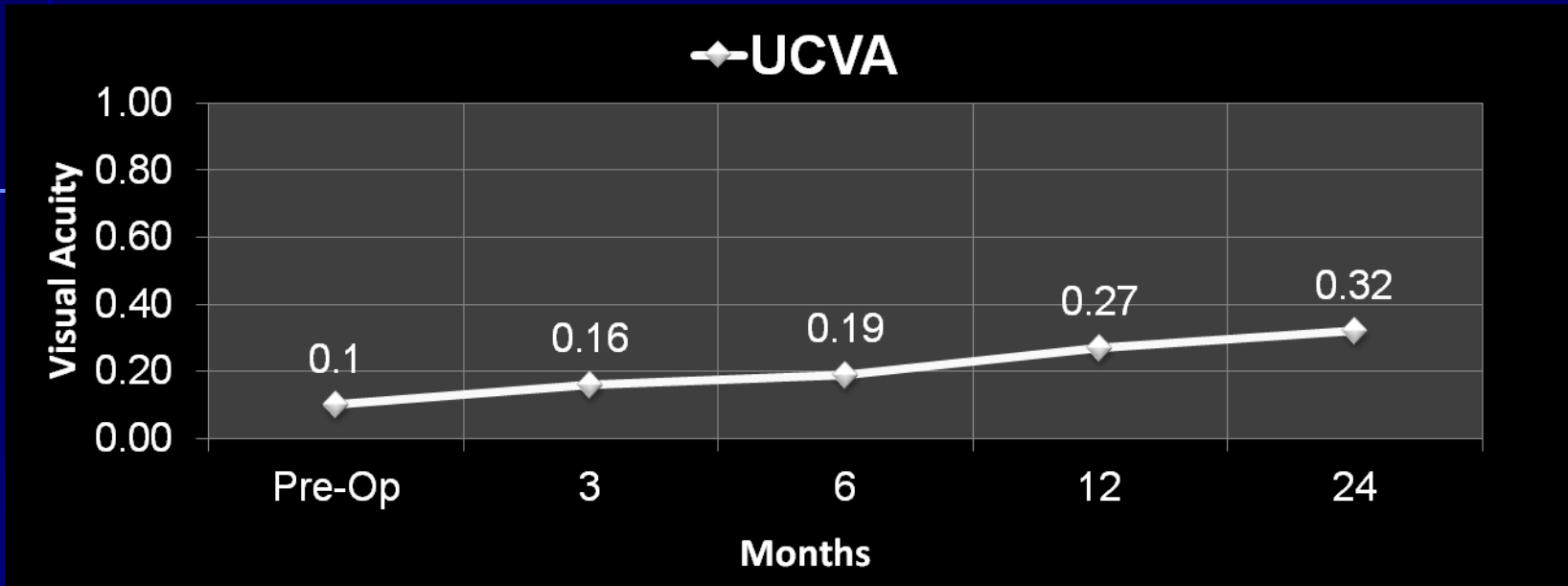
Epitelio superficiale



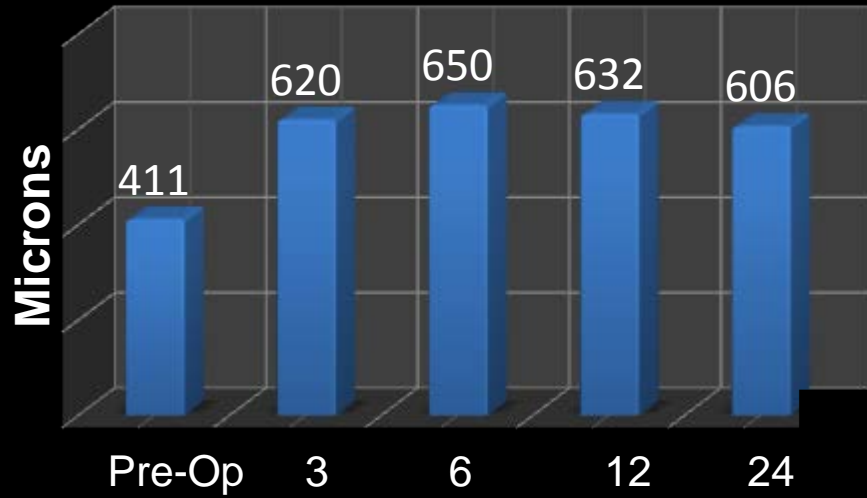
# CLAT Risultati



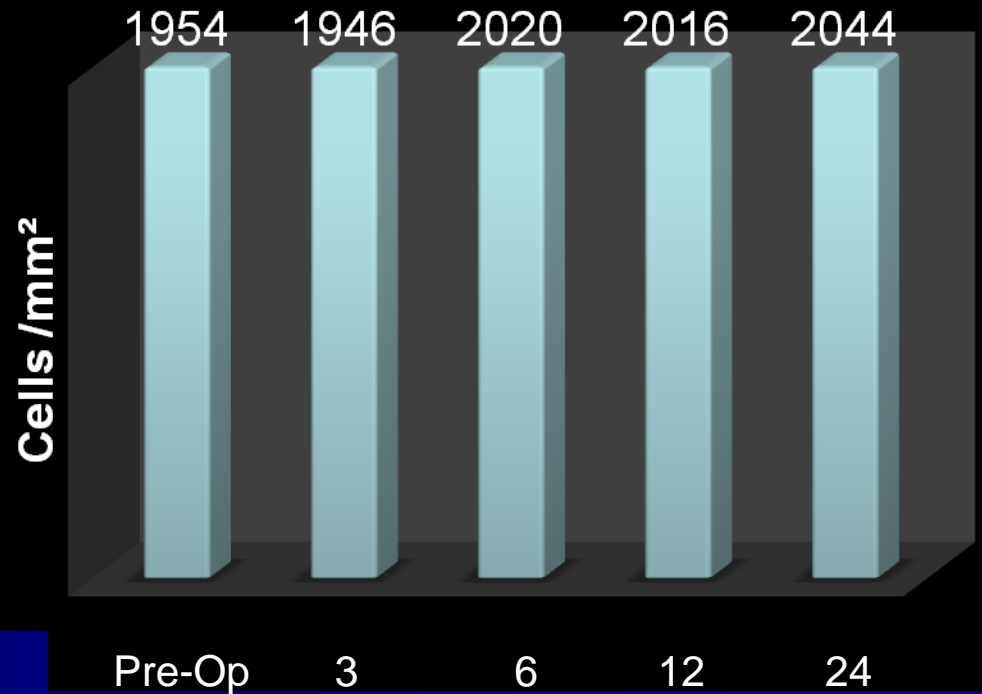
# CLAT Risultati



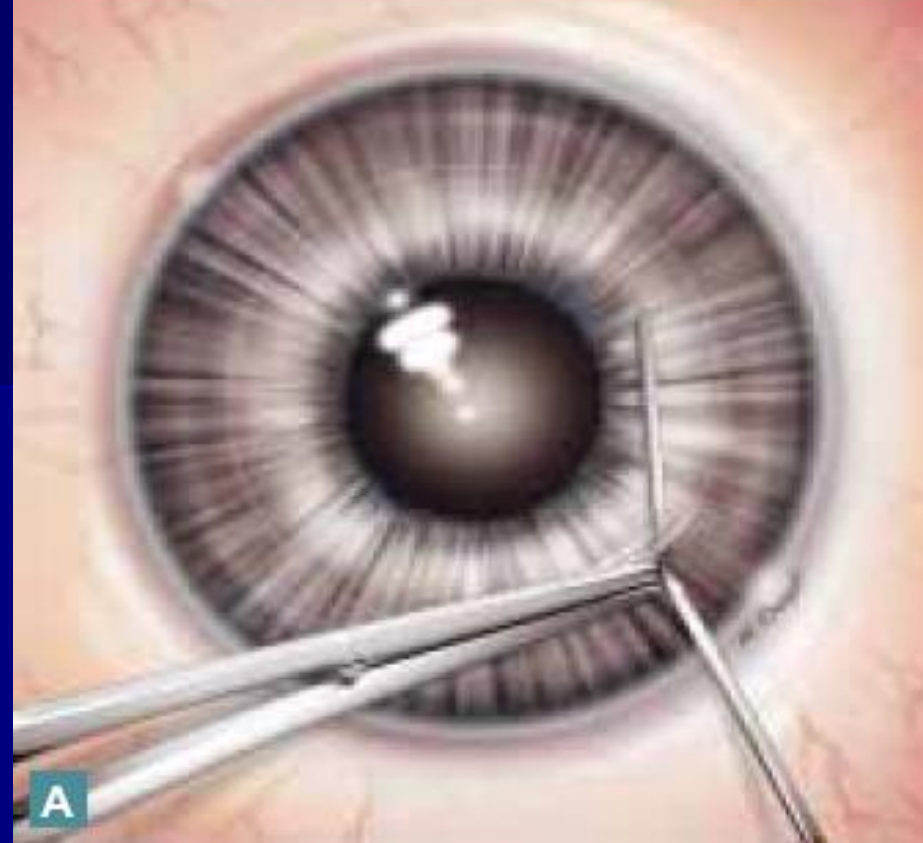
## Corneal Pachimetry



## Endothelial Cell Count

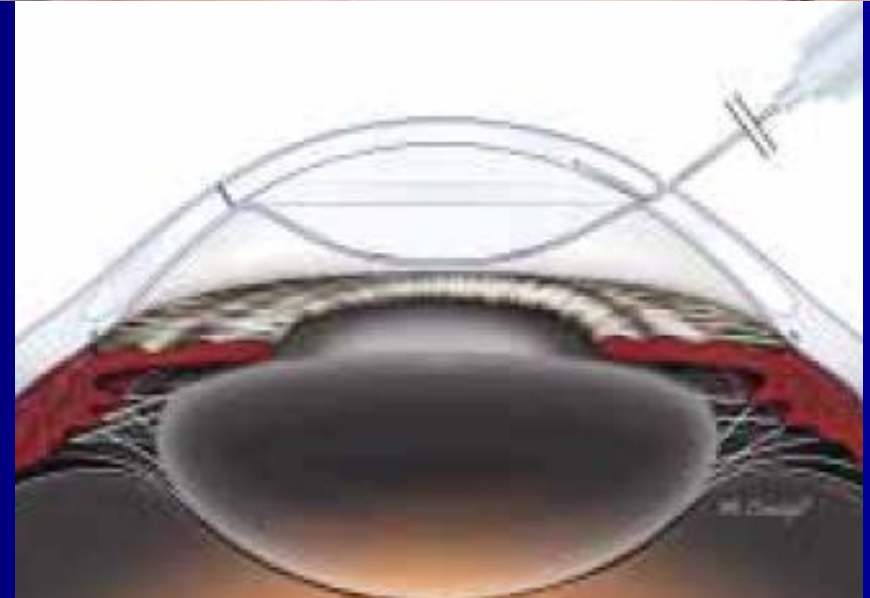
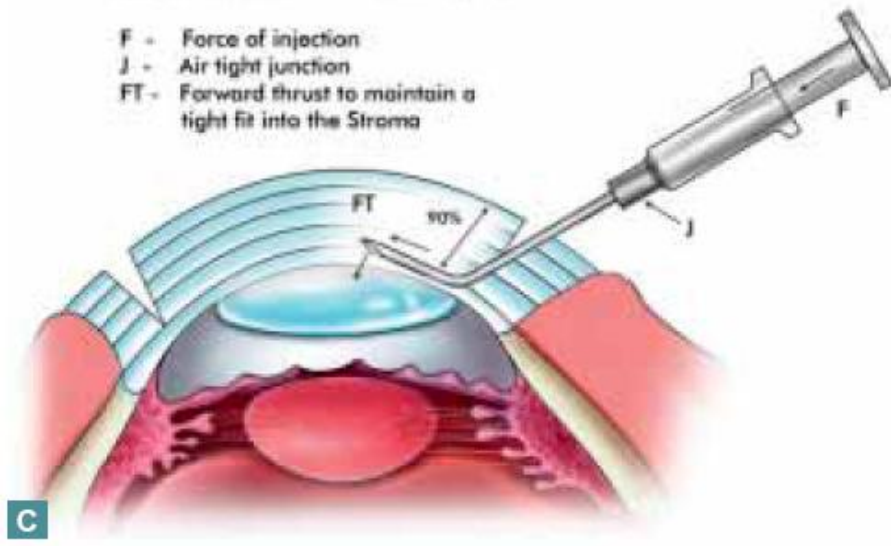


# Cheratoplastica lamellare profunda (DLK) (Big-Bubble)

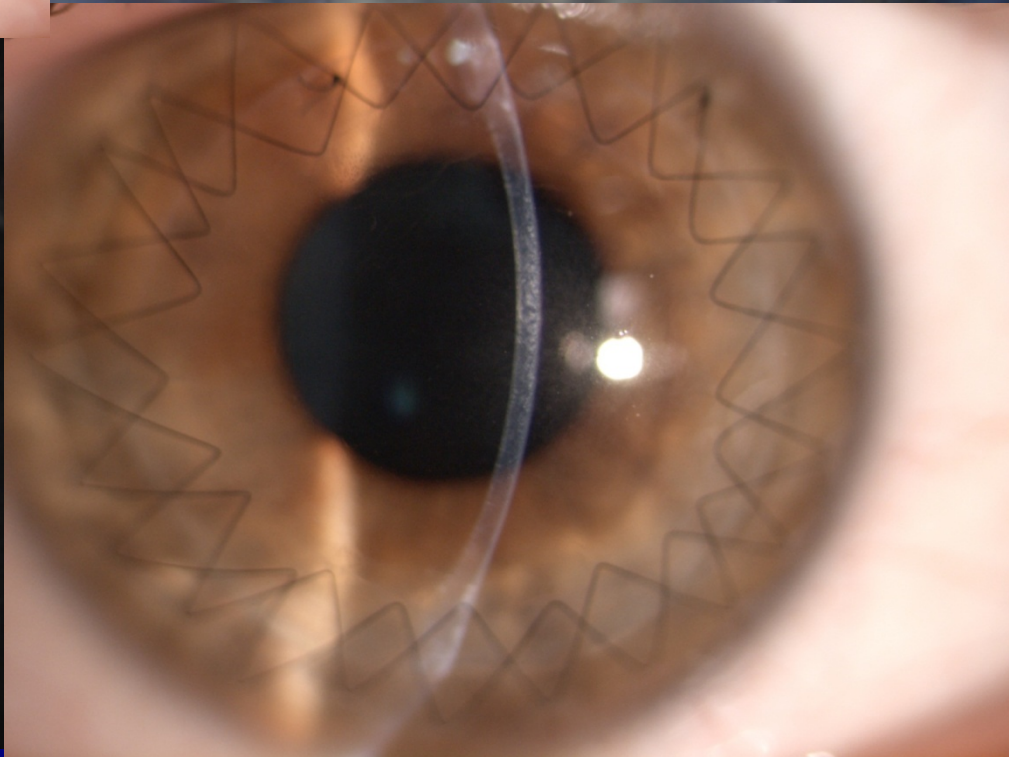
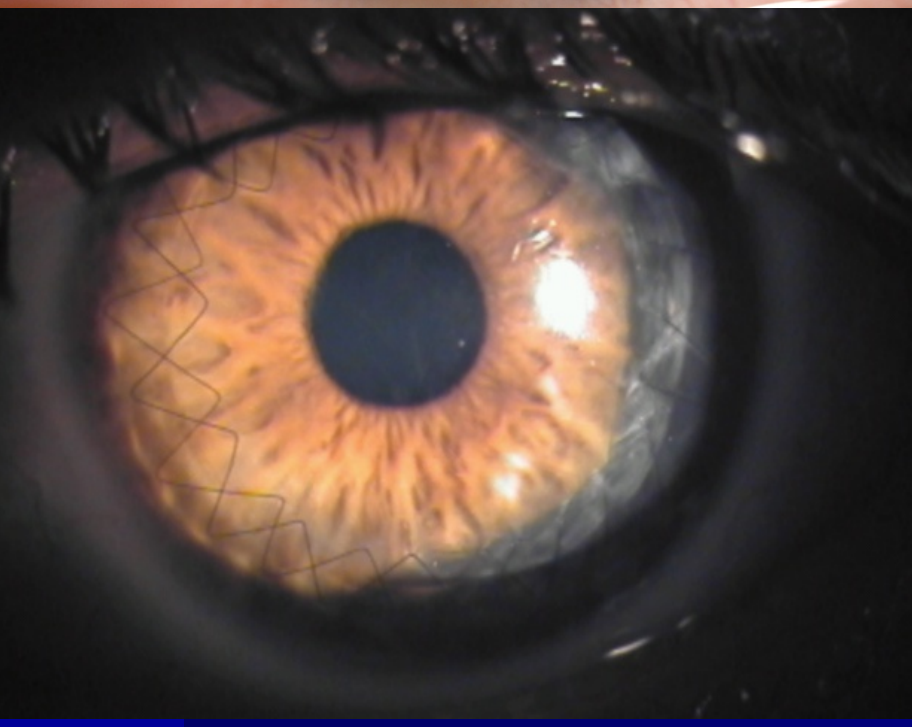
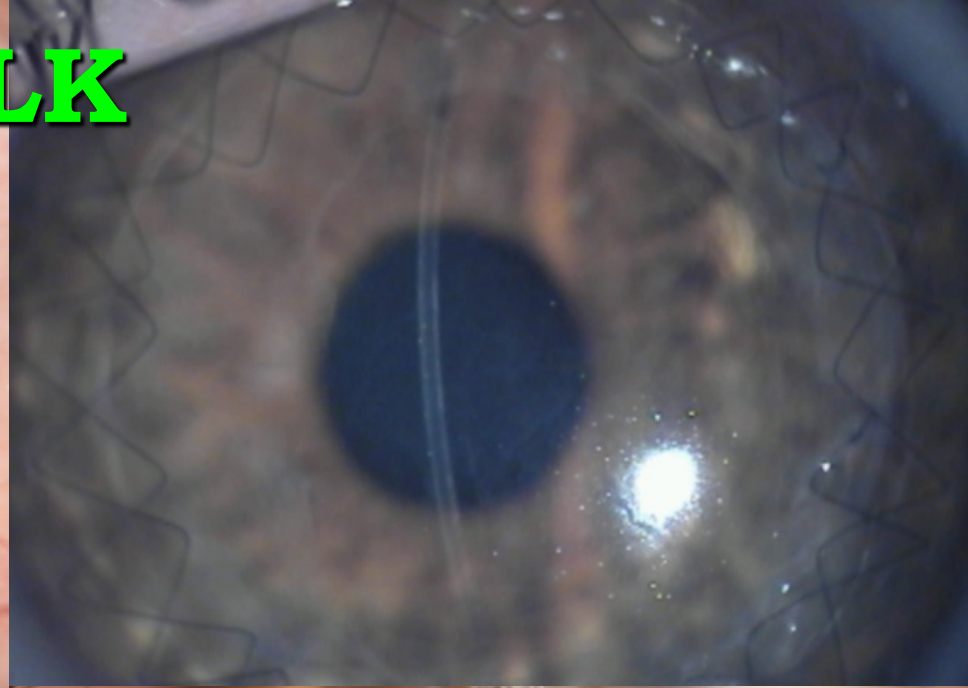
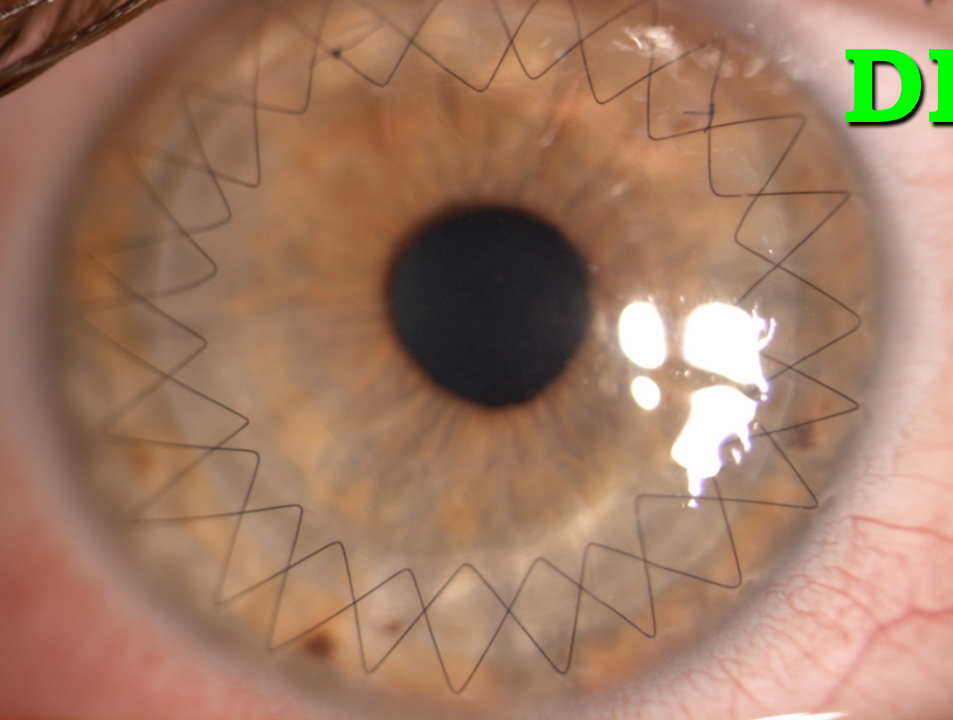


## BIG BUBBLE TECHNIQUE

- F - Force of injection
- J - Air tight junction
- FT - Forward thrust to maintain a tight fit into the Stroma



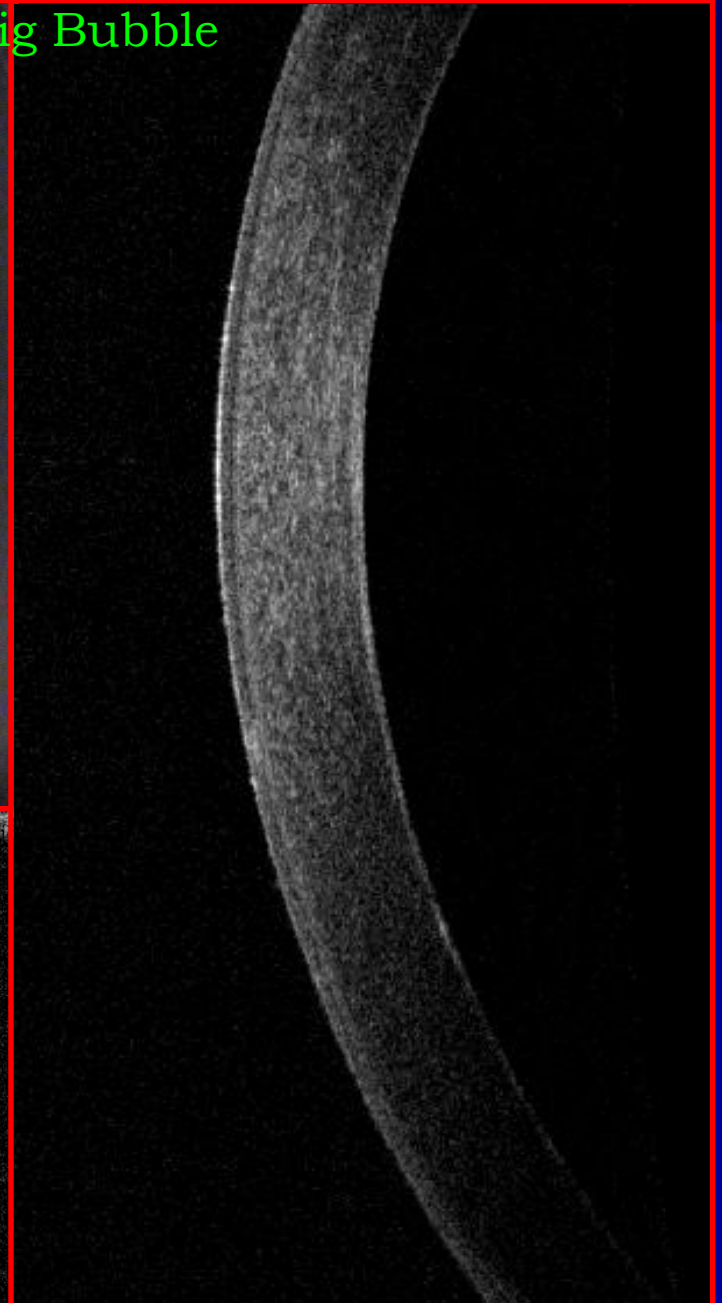
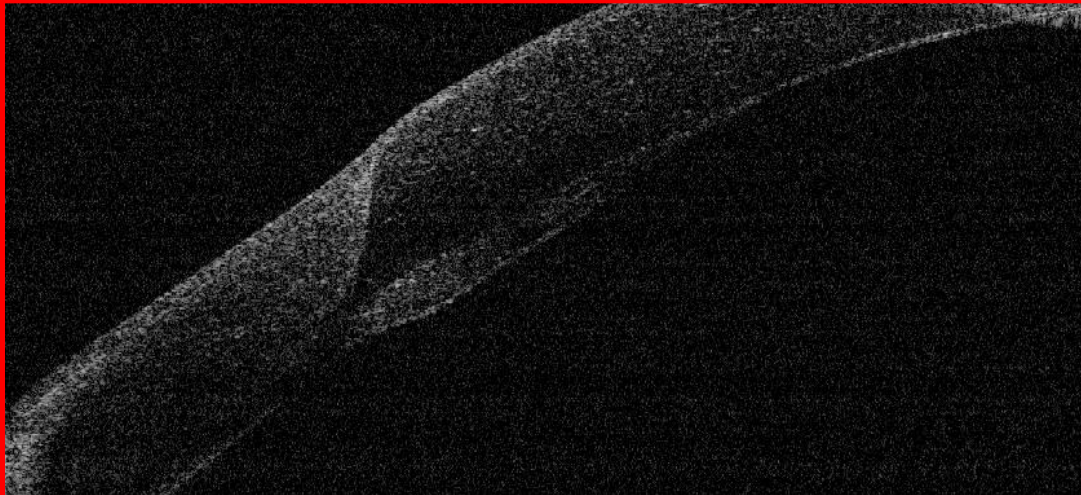
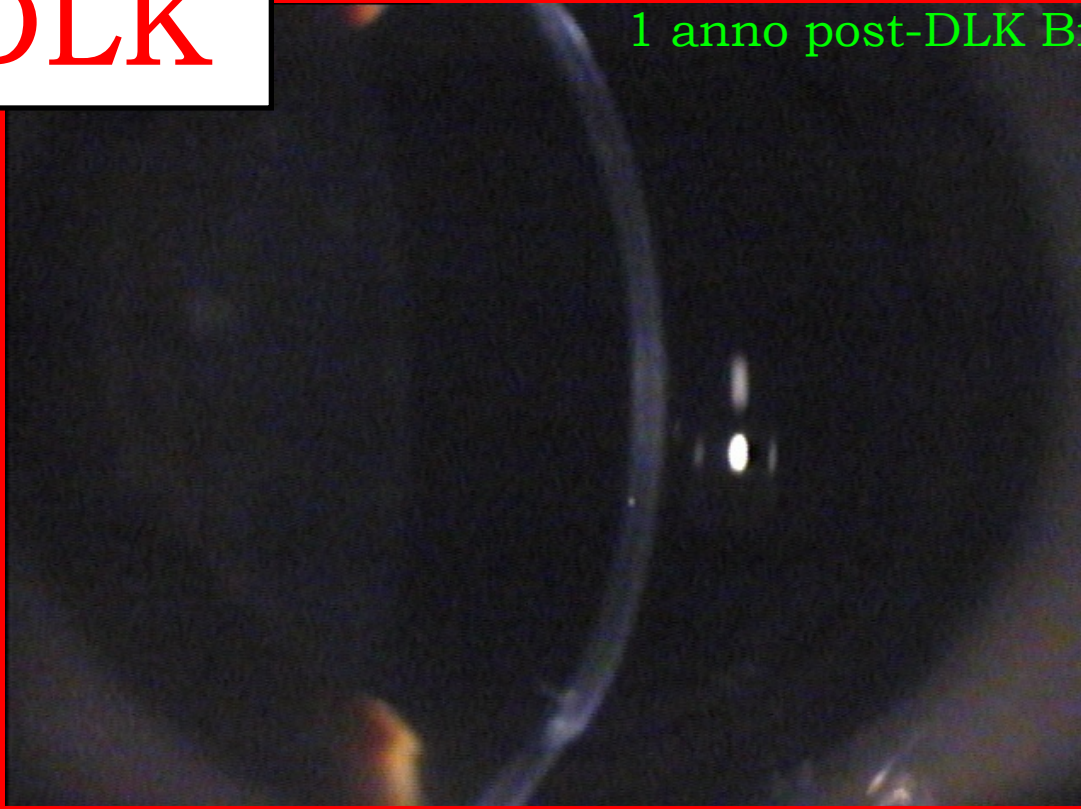
**DLK**

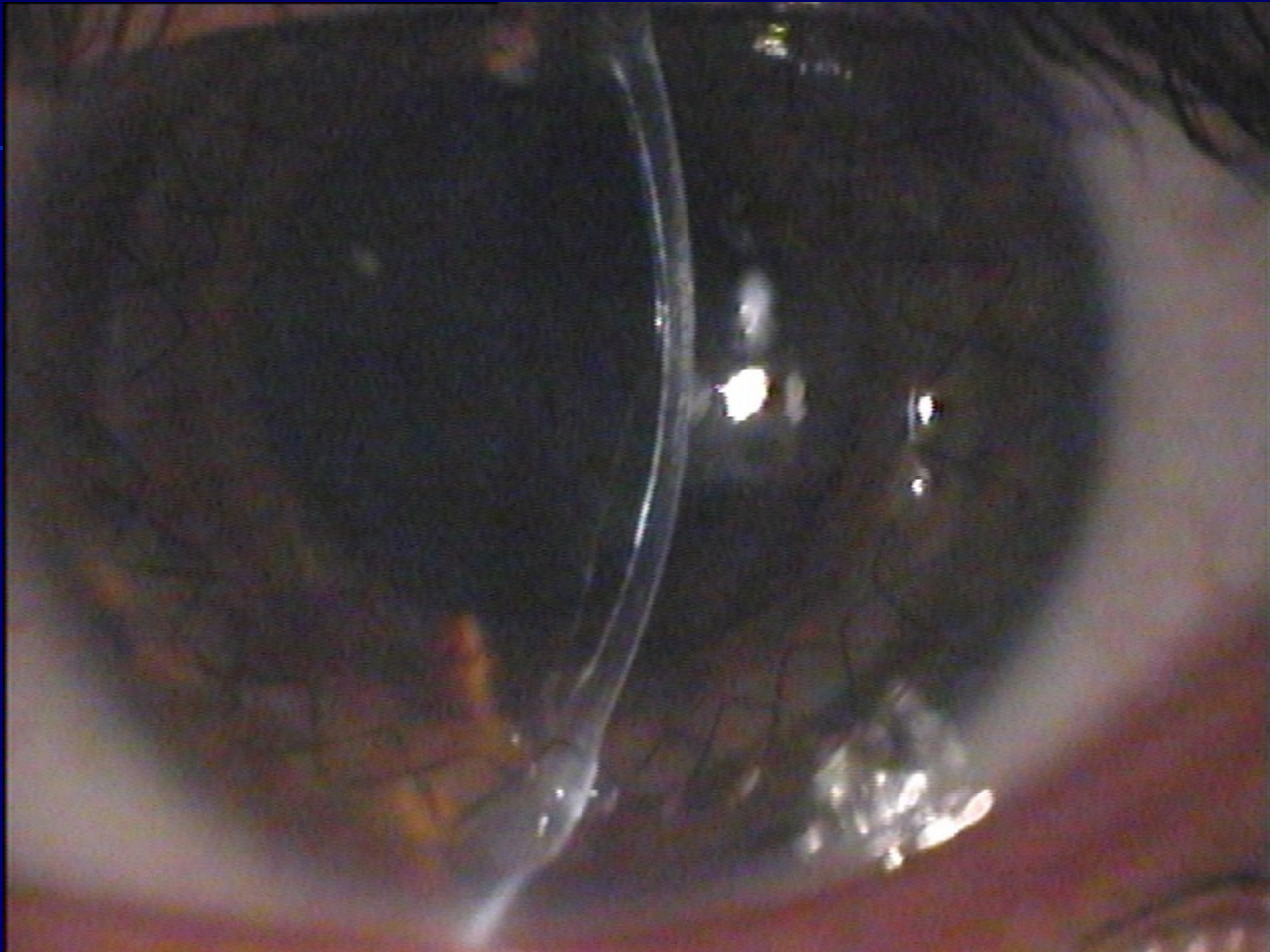


DLK

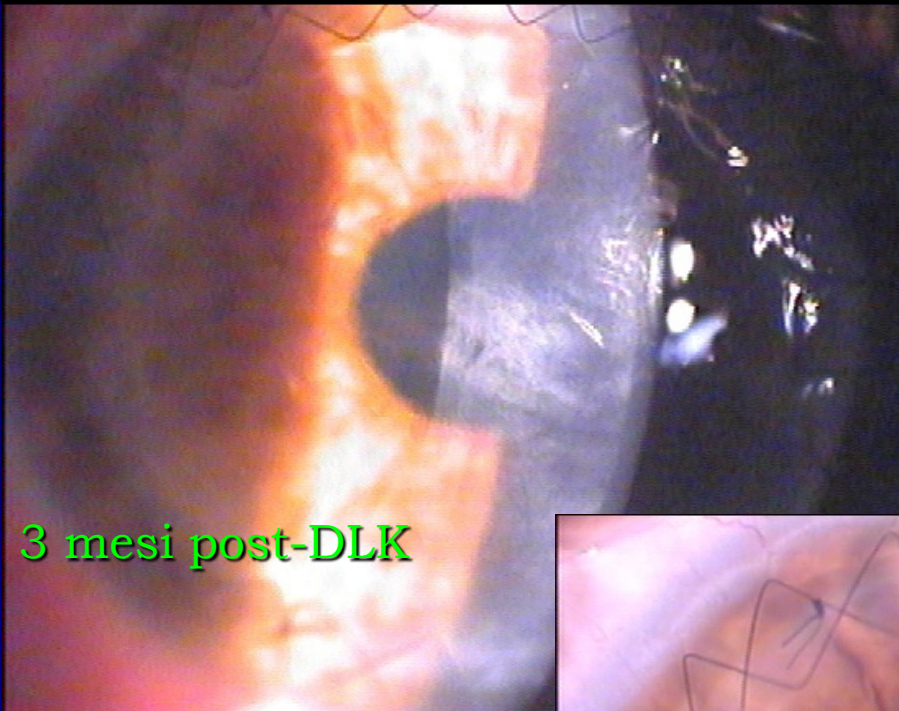
G.F.R. ♂ 45aa

1 anno post-DLK Big Bubble

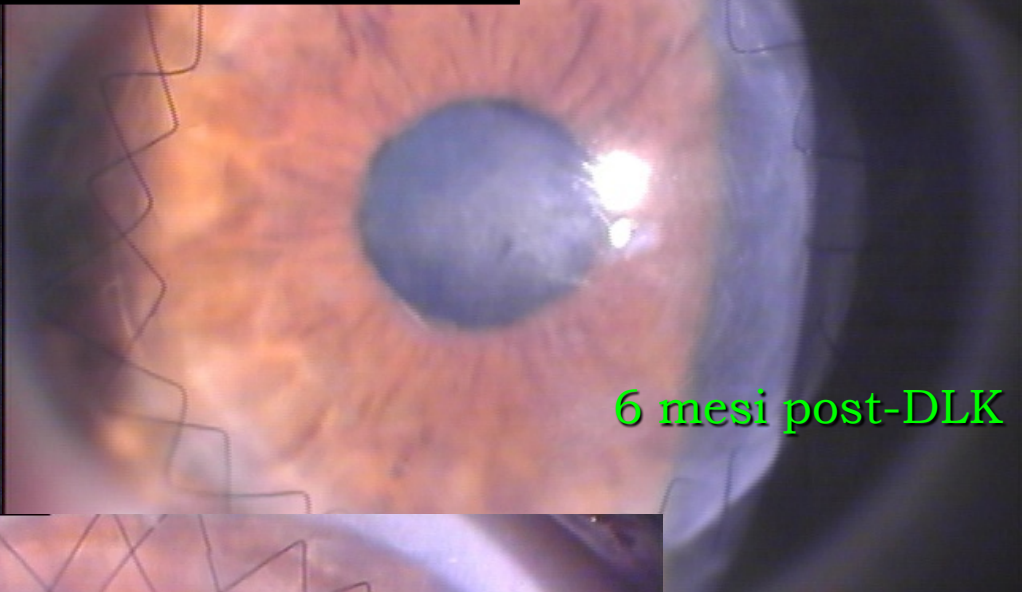




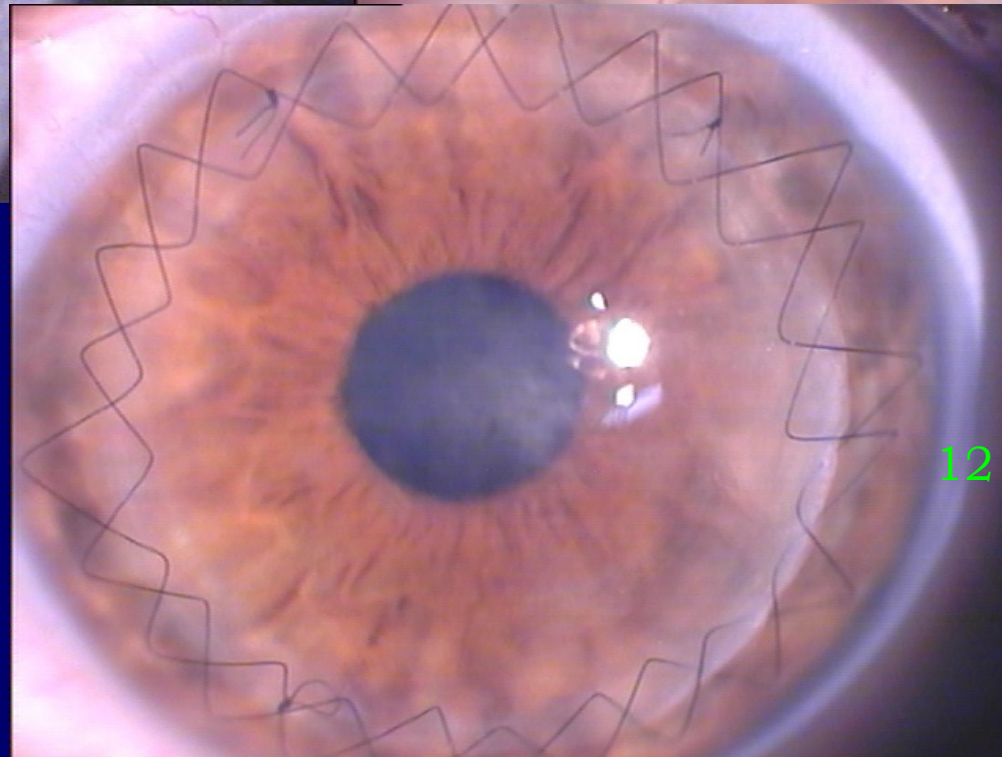
# DLK - predescemetica



3 mesi post-DLK



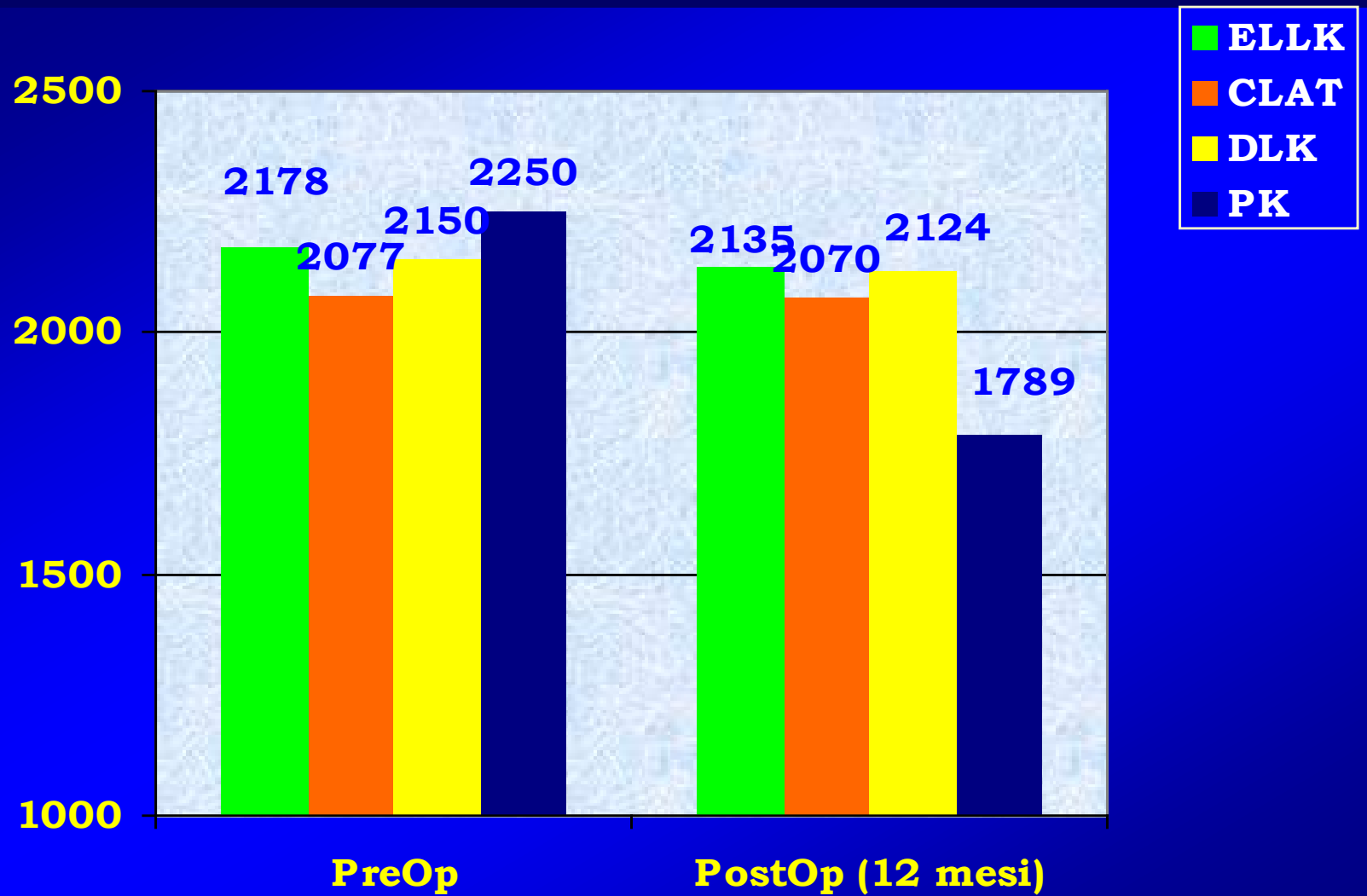
6 mesi post-DLK



D.C.L. 41aa  
12 mesi post-DLK  
UCVA 4/10  
BCVA 10/10

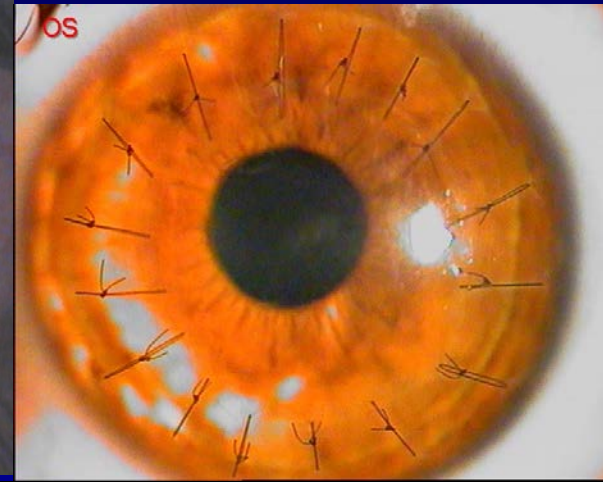
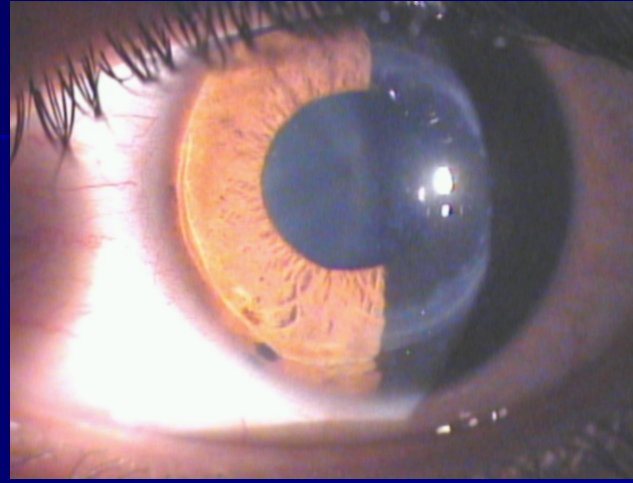
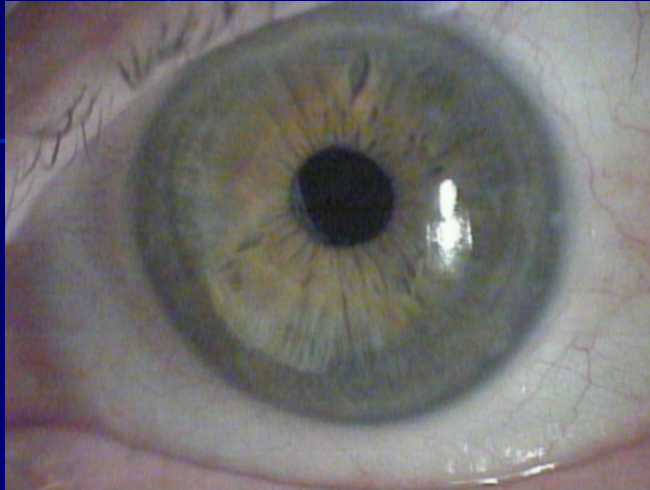


# Risultati Cheratoplastiche KC

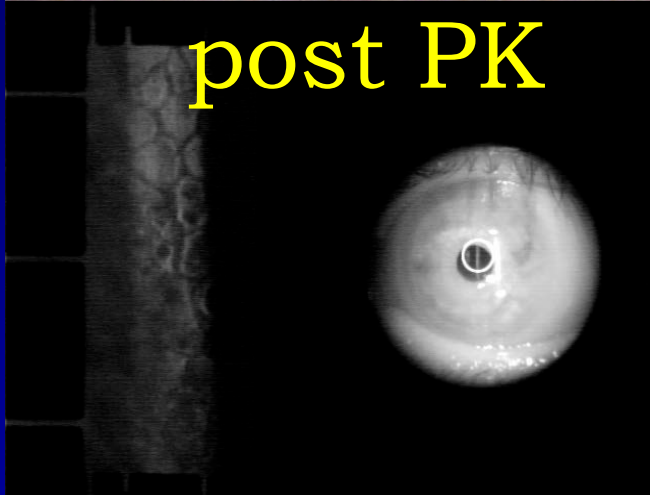


**DCM endoteliale**

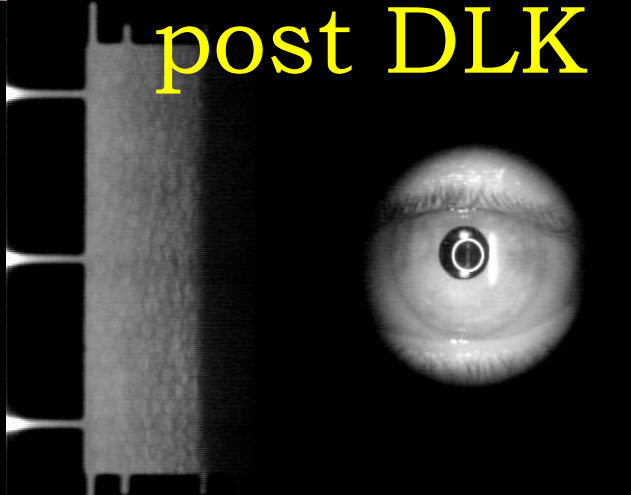
# Pattern endotheliale



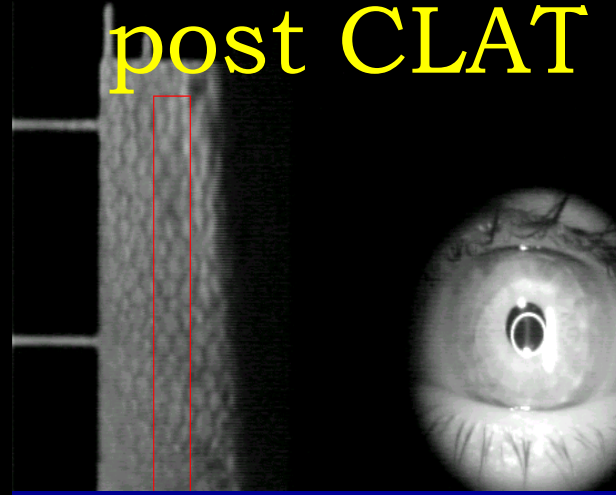
post PK



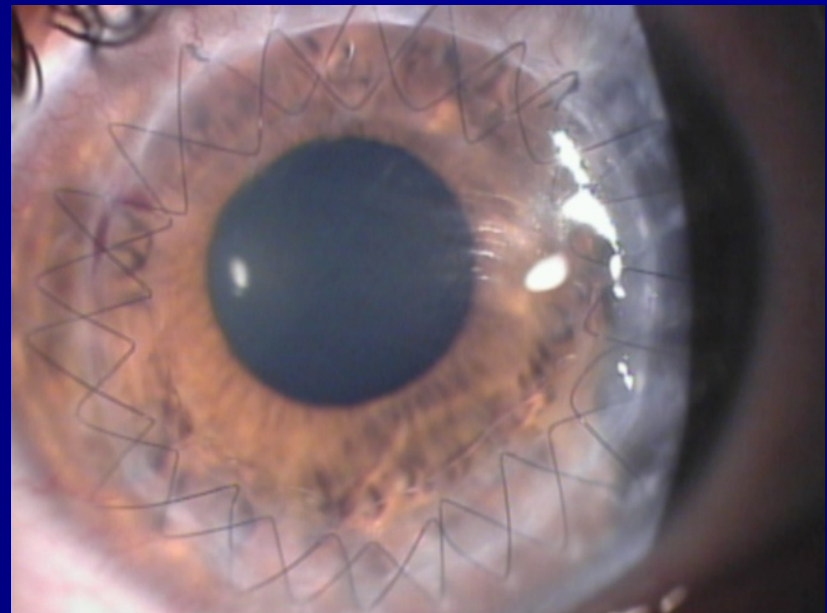
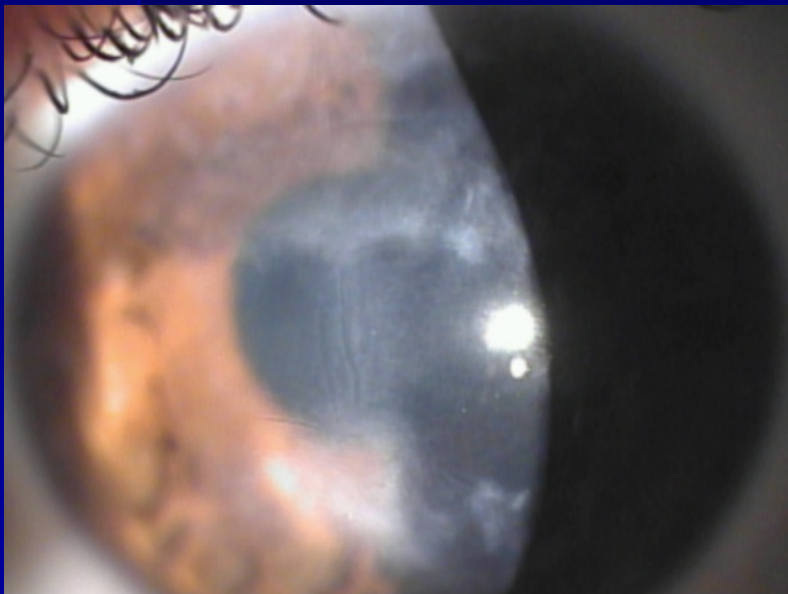
post DLK



post CLAT



L'esecuzione di una **LK** non pregiudica, comunque, una **PK** nel caso di risultati non soddisfacenti



**Clinica Oculistica – Ospedale S. Salvatore  
L'Aquila  
13 Giugno 2006**



# Crosslinking: Epithelium On or Off?

*Leopoldo Spadea*  
*Associate Clinical Professor*  
*of Ophthalmology*

University of L'Aquila - ITALY  
Department of Biotechnological and  
Applied Clinical Sciences



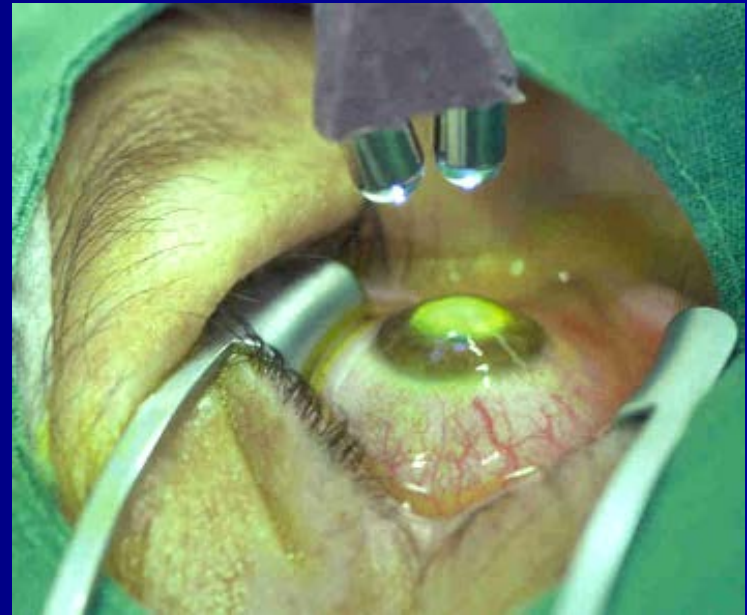
# CORNEAL COLLAGEN CROSS LINKING (CXL)

Photopolymerization process  
of stromal fibers by  
combined action

- **PHOTOSENSITIZING  
SOLUTION**

(Riboflavin – Vit B2)

- **UVA** from a solid state  
UVA 370nm source



Currently, there are 2 ways to apply the riboflavin to the cornea

The epithelium can be:

1. removed



**Epi-Off**

*(Wollensak, Spoerl and Seiler, 2003)*

2. left



**Epi-On**

*(Boxer Wachler, 2004)*

# CXL Epi-Off/Epi-On

## *PATIENT PREPARATION*

- Instillation of a miotic agent (Pilocarpine 2%) at least 30 min before surgery
- Topical anesthesia (Lidocaine 4% drops)





# CXL Epi-Off

## *SURGICAL TIMING*

- Epithelial removal (blunt spatula):  
9 mm diameter
- Solution: Riboflavin  
0.1% + Dextrane 20%
- Soaking time 15-20 min
- UVA Source: 370 nm
- Energy: 3 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Exposition time: 30  
minutes



# CXL Epi-On

No epithelial removal but...

Problems:

1. **Riboflavin** (molecular weight 376.37 g/mol) is a hydrophilic macromolecule and **cannot penetrate** intact epithelium

*(Spoerl E, 2007)*

2. **Corneal epithelium** plays a role as **barrier to UVA** penetration

*(Kolozsvari L, 2002)*

# CXL Epi-On

▶ **intact epithelium** → barrier for riboflavin

## PHYSICAL TOOLS

- Intrastromal application of riboflavin  
(Femto-Pockets) *(Kanellopoulos J, JRS 2009)*
- Injection of riboflavin into the stroma  
(micro-needles) *(Dauqimont L, J M Biol 2010)*
- Epithelial-disruptor/scratches  
*(Daya S, Cat Refr Surg Today Europe 2011)*
- Iontophoresis

# CXL Epi-On

- Iontophoresis



Ocular iontophoresis uses movement of ions under an electric field to apply riboflavin (-) to the stroma through the epithelium

*(Vinciguerra P, ESCRS 2012)*

# CXL Epi-On

- ▶ **intact epithelium** → barrier for riboflavin

## CHEMICAL TOOLS

Pharmacologic change of epithelial tight-junctions:

- Benzalkonium chloride (BAC)
- EDTA
- Trometamol

*augmented with **topical anesthetics** (proparacaine, tetracaine, oxybuprocaine), and with **gentamicin***

# KERATOCYTES APOPTOSIS

- CXL leads to dose dependent keratocyte damage
- Epi-Off: Keratocytes damage reaches a depth of  $300\mu\text{m}$  using a surface UVA dose of  $3\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$

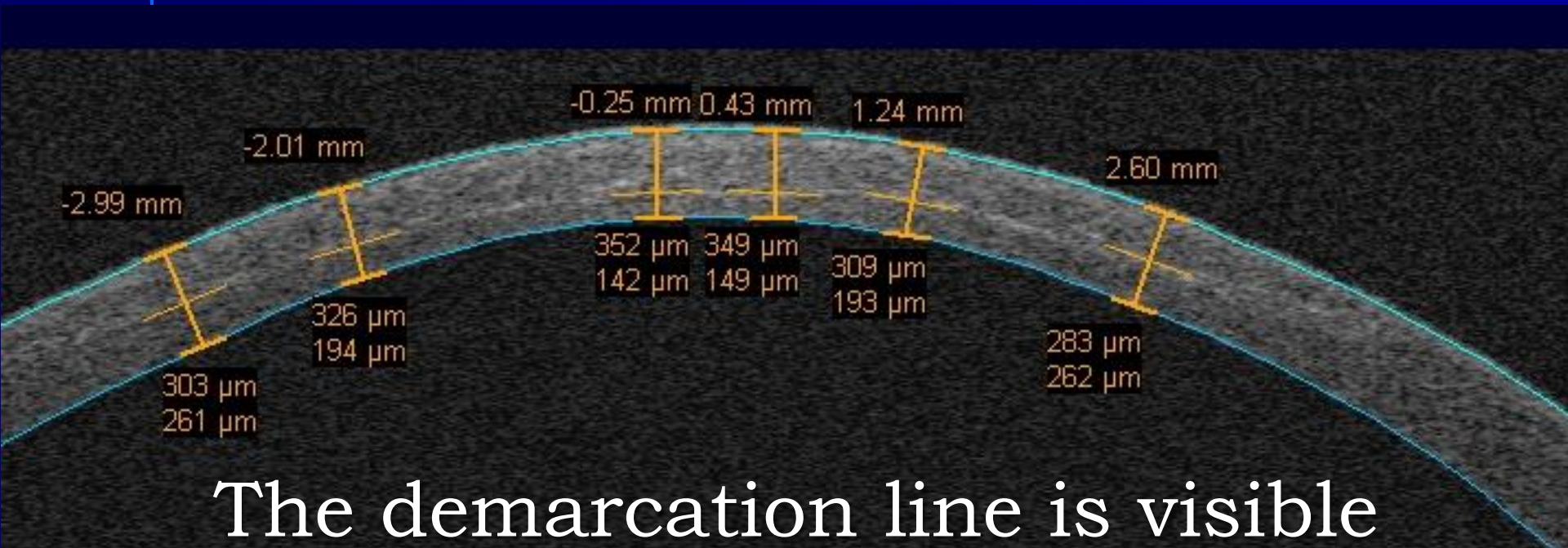


CONTROL



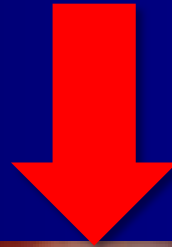
CXL Epi-Off: one month

# CXL Epi-Off AS-OCT



The demarcation line is visible  
at 290/350 μm

CXL **Epi-Off**: Corneal thickness  
of at least **400 $\mu$ m**



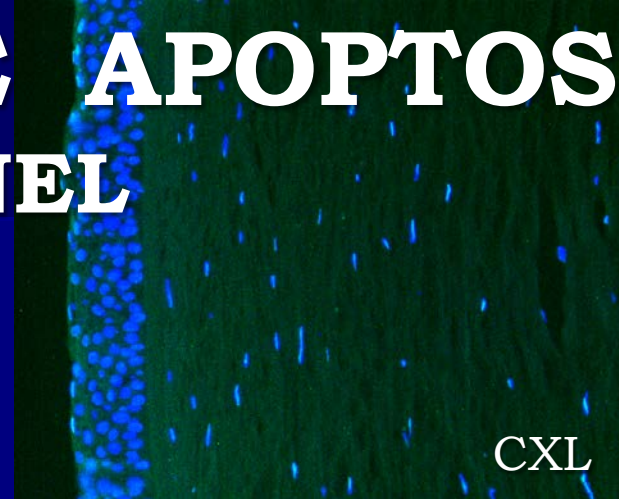
cytotoxic effect on the  
endothelium, crystalline lens and  
other intraocular tissues

*(Spoerl E, 2007; Wollensak G, 2006)*

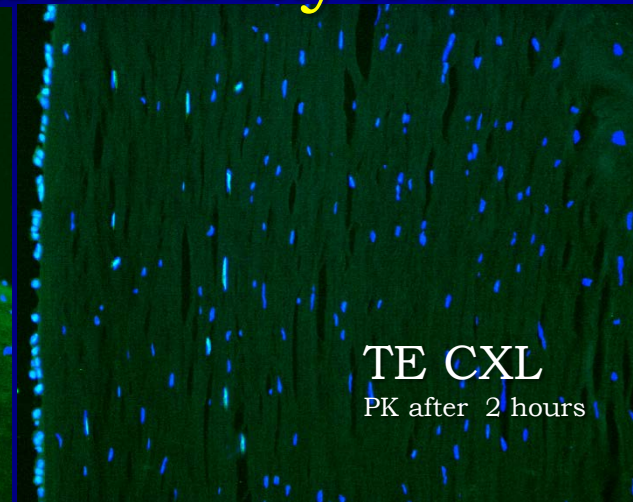


# CXL Epi-On

## KERATOCYTE APOPTOSIS TUNEL

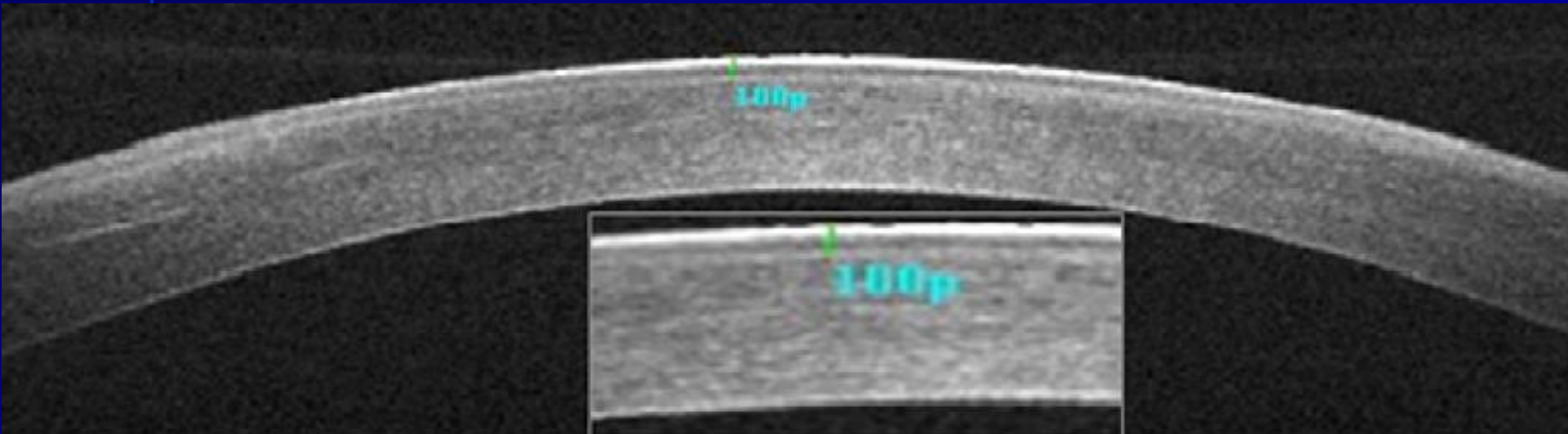


Apoptotic keratocytes are present only in the superficial stromal layers



**CXL Epi-On**  
**AS-OCT**  
***Transepithelial CXL***

Ricrolin TE<sup>®</sup> (Sooft, Italy)



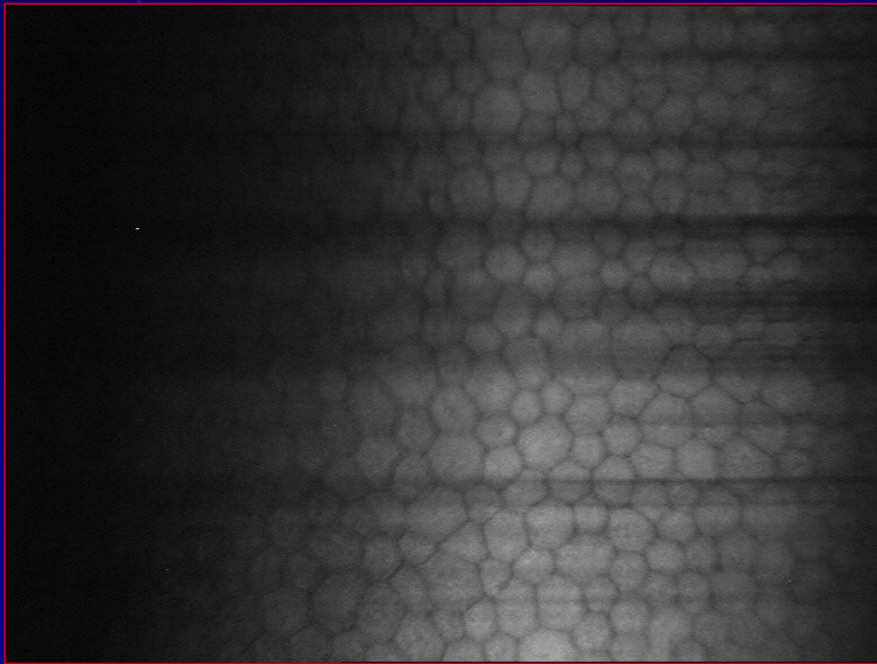
The demarcation line is visible  
at 100-140µm

*(Filippello M, JCRS 2012; Caporossi A, Eur J Ophthal 2012)*

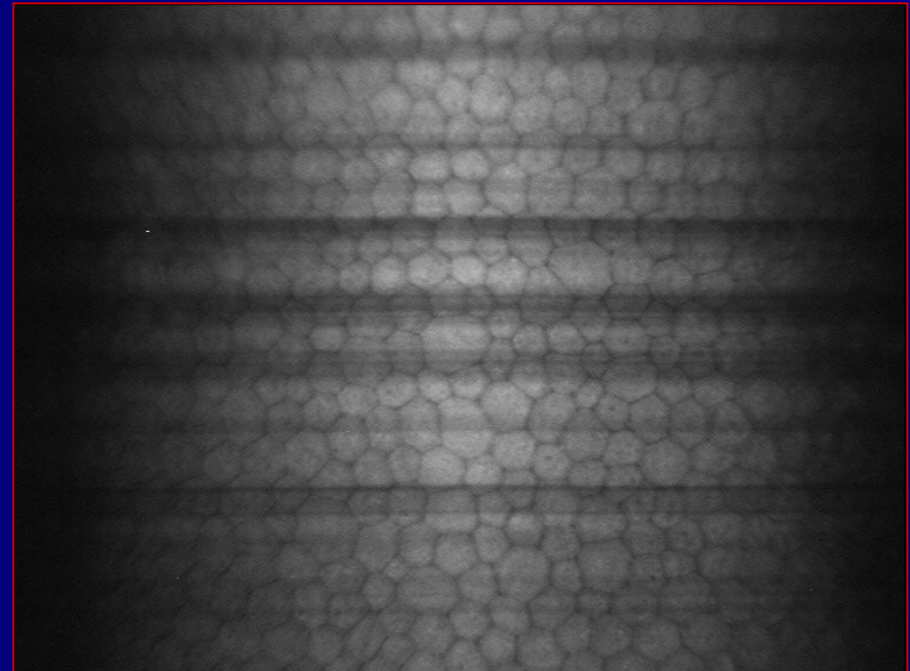
# ENDOTHELIUM

## Epi-Off

### no damage



untreated endothelium

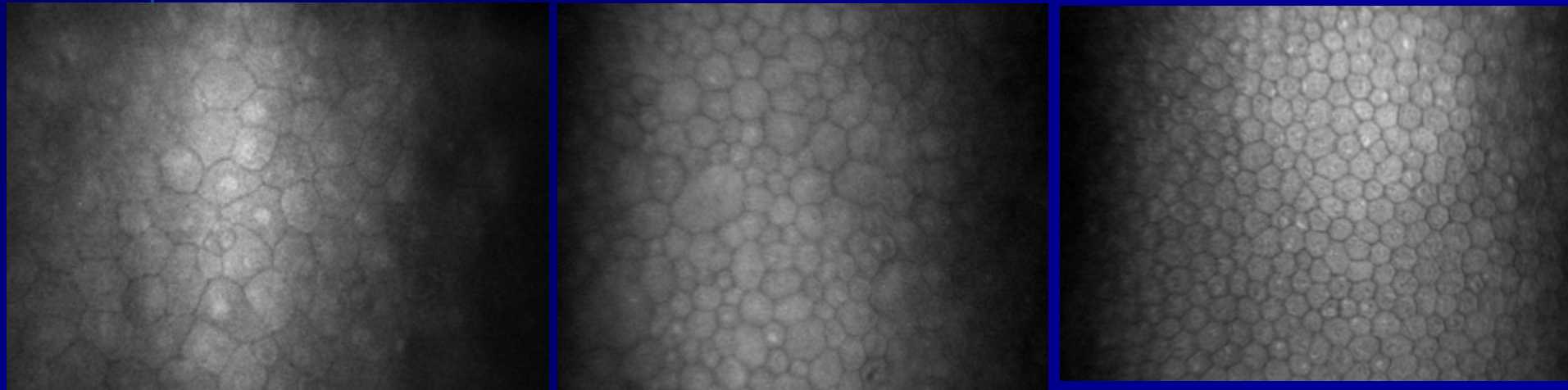


endothelium treated with  
CXL Epi-Off

# ENDOTHELIUM

**Epi-On**

**no damage**



*No significant corneal  
endothelial cell changes  
both in quality and quantity*

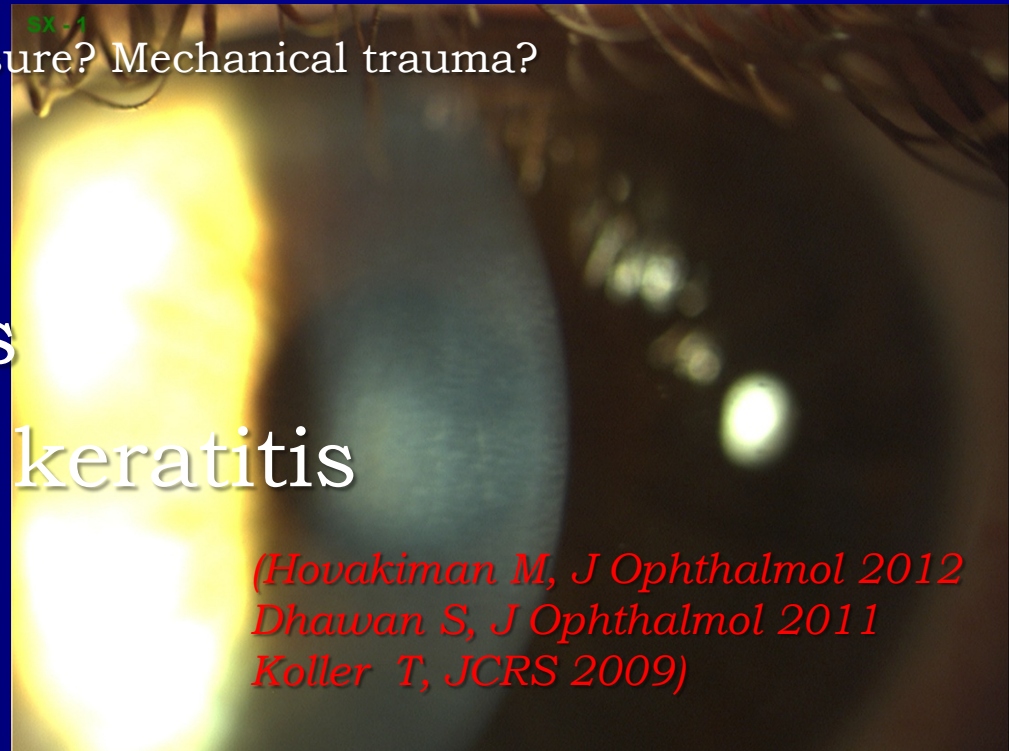
# BIOMECHANICAL EFFICACY

- In rabbits with **Epi-On** TE CXL the stiffening effect was **one fifth** that with the **Epi-Off** procedure

*(Wollensak G and Iomdina E, JCRS 2009)*

# CXL Epi-Off Complications

- Infectious Keratitis (Case reports)
  - Bacterial
  - Acanthamoeba
  - Herpetic (UV exposure? Mechanical trauma?  
Corticosteroids?)
- Stromal haze
- Sterile infiltrates
- Diffuse lamellar keratitis



*(Hovakiman M, J Ophthalmol 2012  
Dhawan S, J Ophthalmol 2011  
Koller T, JCRS 2009)*

# CXL Epi-On Complications

- No serious complications were described

*(Spadea L, Ophthalmology 2011; Filippello M, JCRS 2012)*

- Only some redness and photophobia for 24 to 48 hours

*(Koppen C, JCRS 2012)*

- Sporadic transient subepithelial haze

*(Leccisotti A, JCRS 2010)*

# CXL Epi-Off

## Results at least 1 yr FU

*(Hundreds of peer-reviewed studies)*

- Kmax: reduction approx 2D
- CDVA: improvement approx 1 Snellen line
- UDVA: variable improvement
- Refractive parameters (spherical equivalent, cylinder): variable changes, approx 2D



# **CXL Epi-On**

## **Results at least 1 yr FU**

*Transepithelial **Epi-On** CXL with enhancers (BAC, trometamol, EDTA, proparacaine, gentamicin) was less effective than **Epi-Off** CXL in stabilizing progressive keratoconus*

*(Leccisotti A, JRS 2010; Koppen C, JCRS 2012)*

# CXL Epi-On

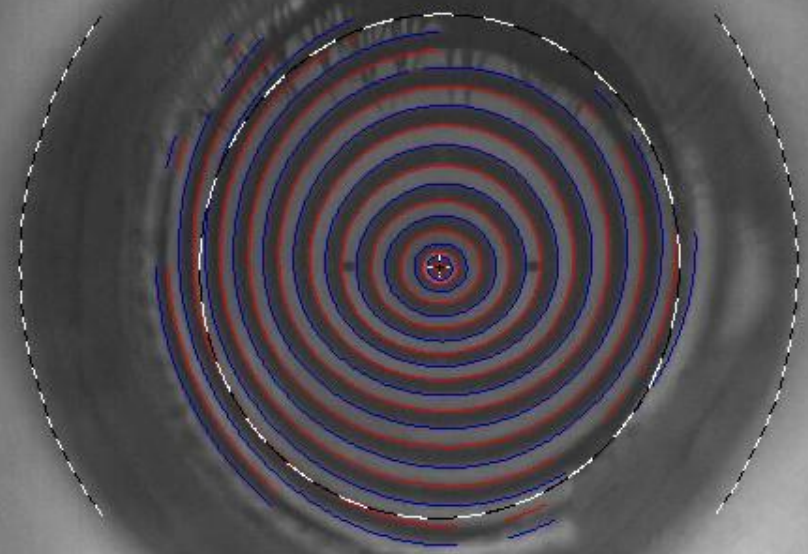
## Results at least 1 yr FU

*(Peer-reviewed studies)*

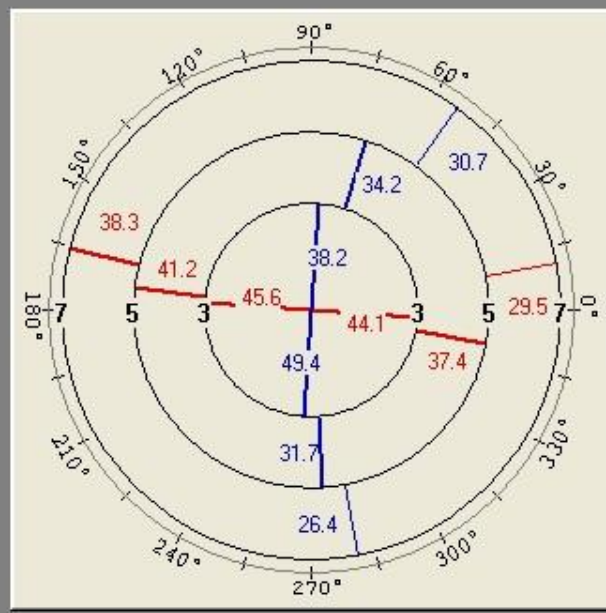
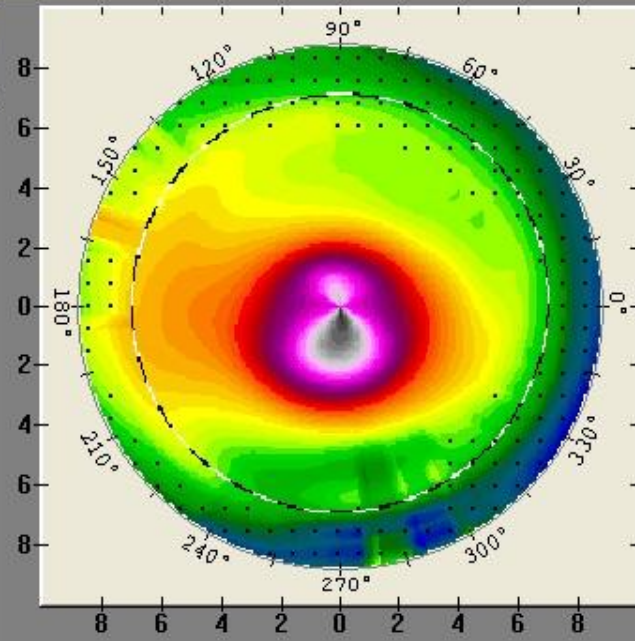
	<i>Leccisotti, 2010</i>	<i>Spadea, 2011</i>	<i>Koppen, 2012</i>	<i>Filippello, 2012</i>
CDVA	+32%	+12%	+8%	+31%
UDVA	NE	+5%	NE	+32%
MRSE	<0.35D	<0.20D	NE	NE
Refr cyl	NE	NE	-0.08	NE
K max	>0.51D	<2.72D	>0.65D	<1.20D
Sim K	<0.10D	<0.90D	<0.11D	NE

Nome:  Data es.:   
 Data di n.:  Occhio:  Data tic.:

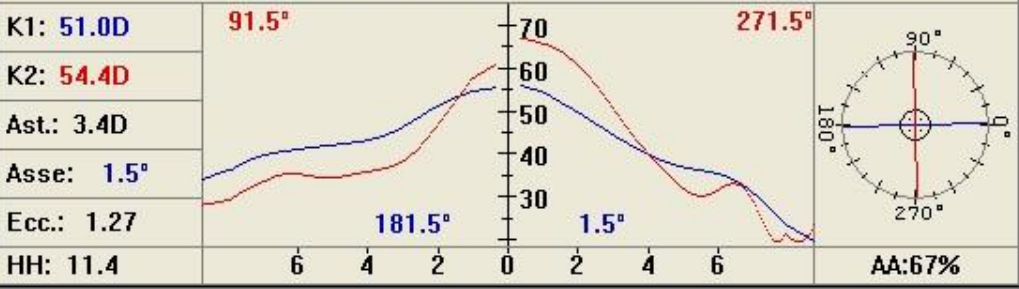
*L.A. 27ys ♀ - RE*



*Pachy min 386 μm*

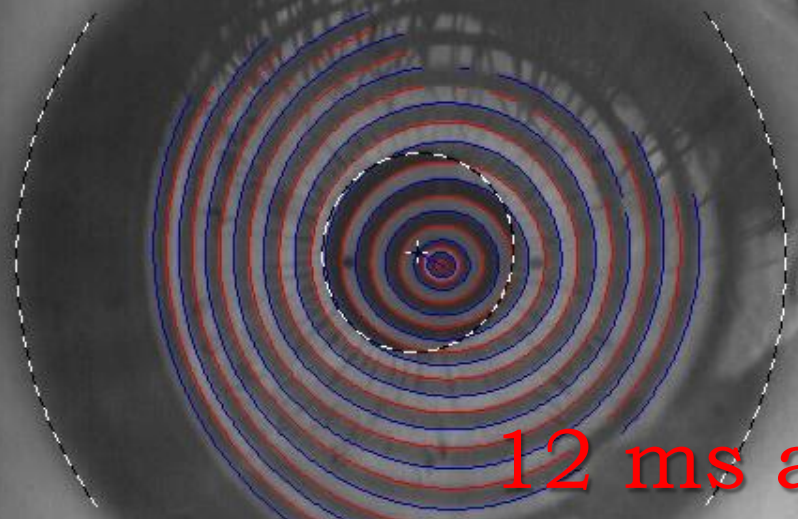


Dati keratometrici : meridiani perpendicolari principali

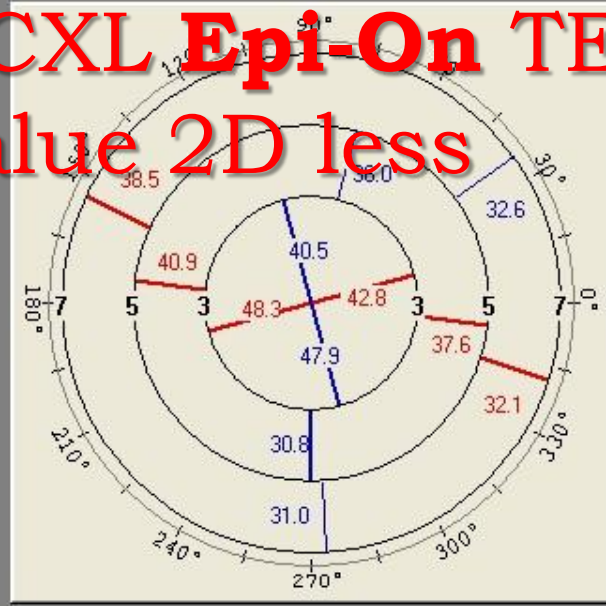
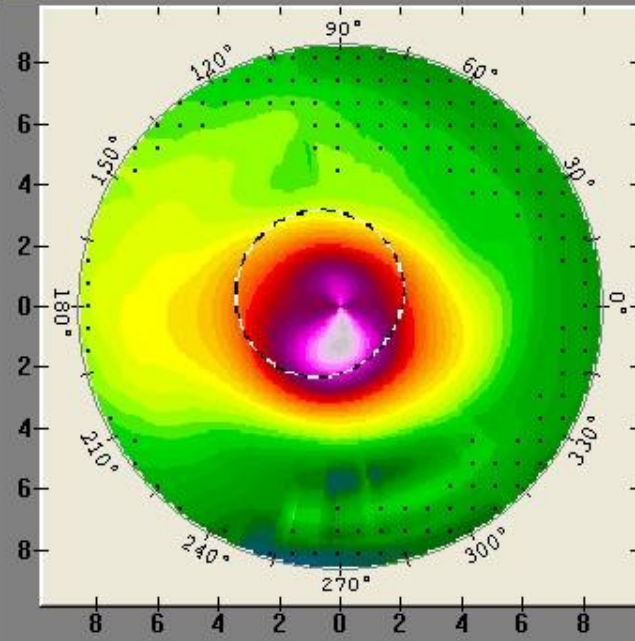


Nome:  Data es.:   
 Data di n.:  Occhio:  Data tic.:

L.A. 27ys ♀ - RE



12 ms after CXL Epi-On TE  
K max value 2D less

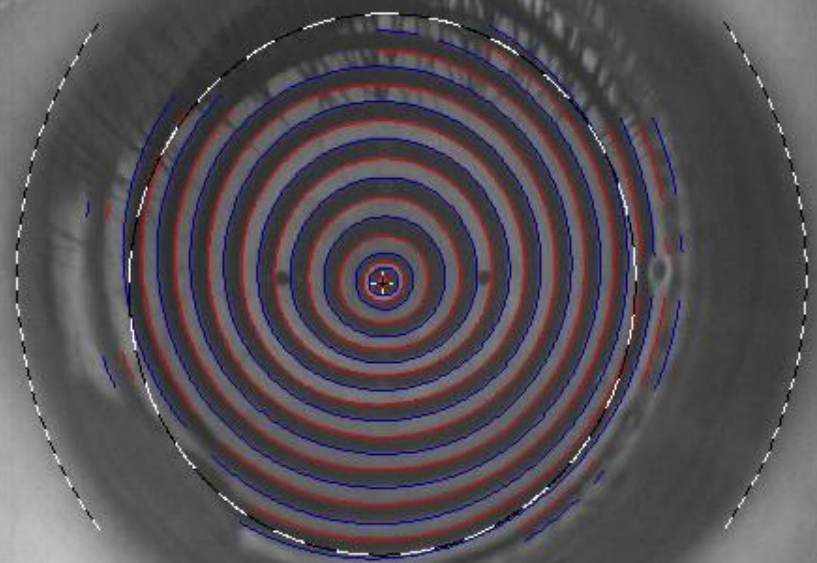


**Dati keratometrici : meridiani perpendicolari principali**

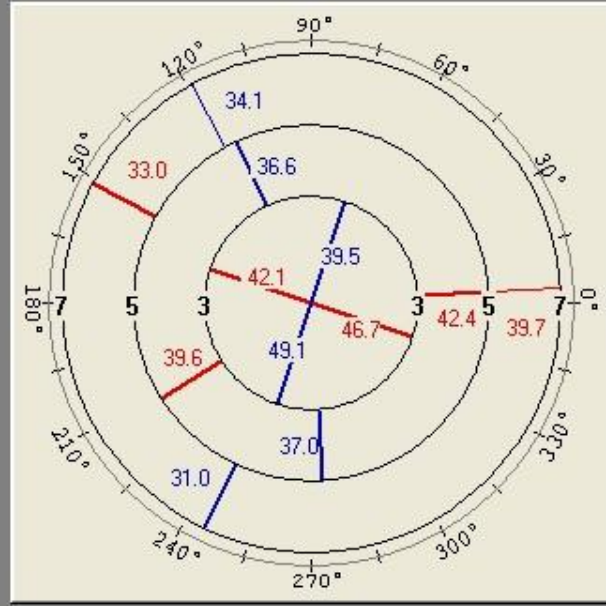
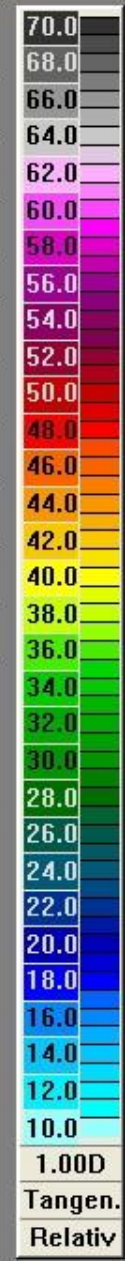
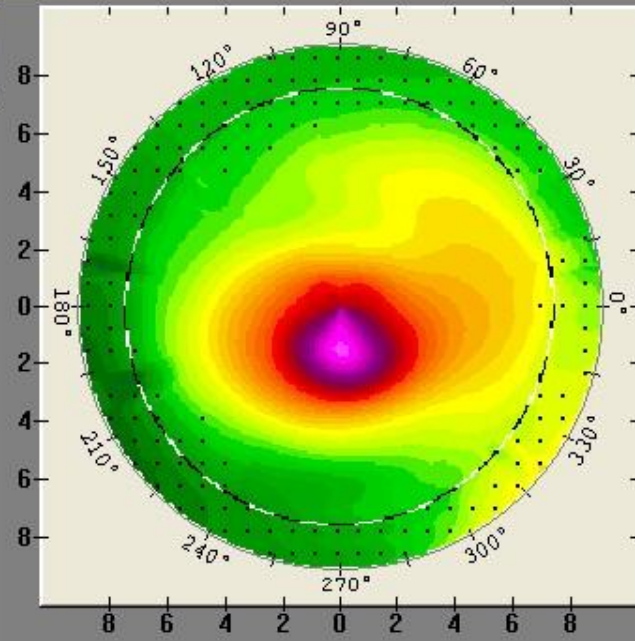
K1: 50.6D	269.3°	70	89.3°
K2: 54.0D		60	
Ast.: 3.5D		50	
Asse: 179.3°		40	
Ecc.: 1.23	179.3°	30	359.3°
HH: 11.2			
			AA:71%

Nome:  Data es.:   
 Data di n.:  Occhio:  Data tic.:

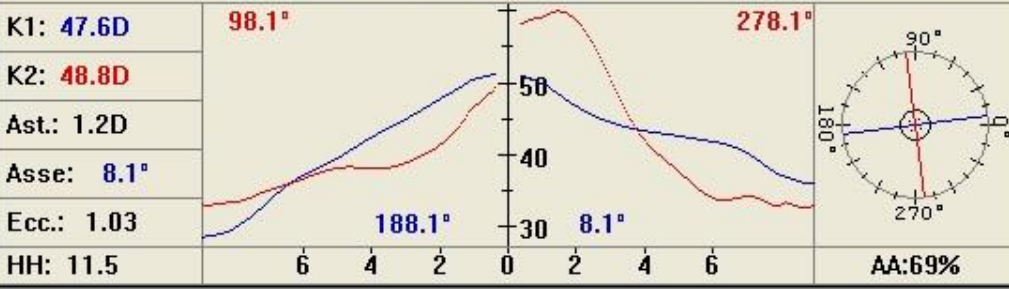
*L.A. 27ys ♀ - LE*



*Pachy min 425 μm*

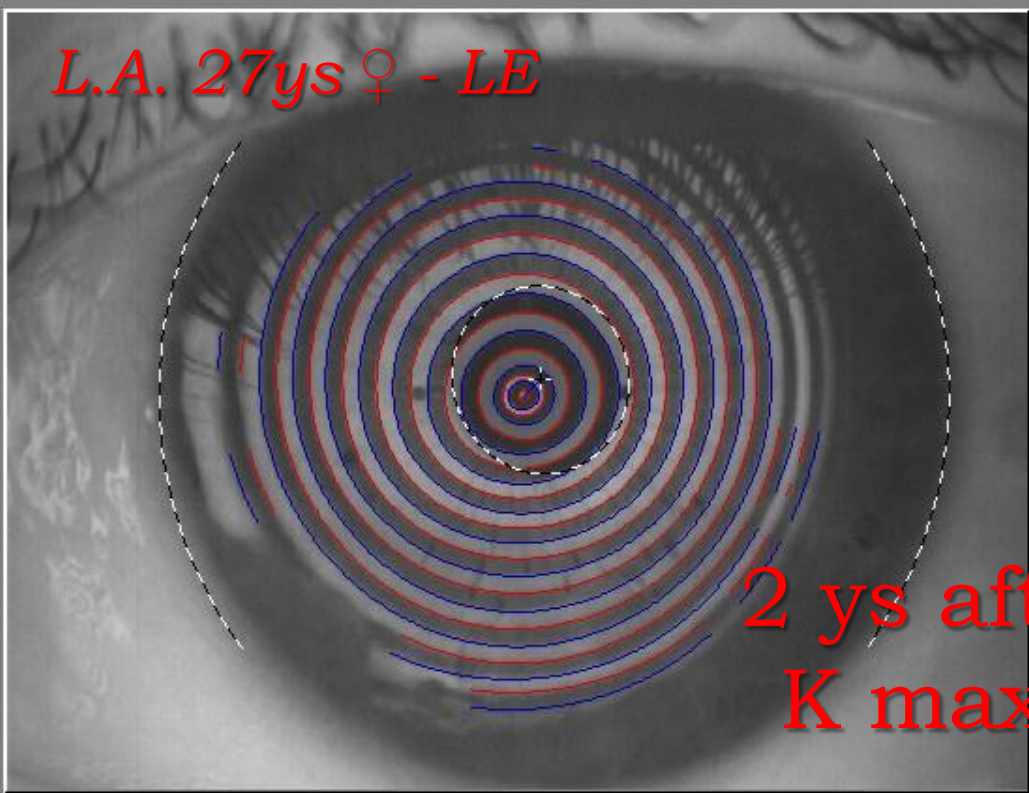


Dati keratometrici : meridiani perpendicolari principali

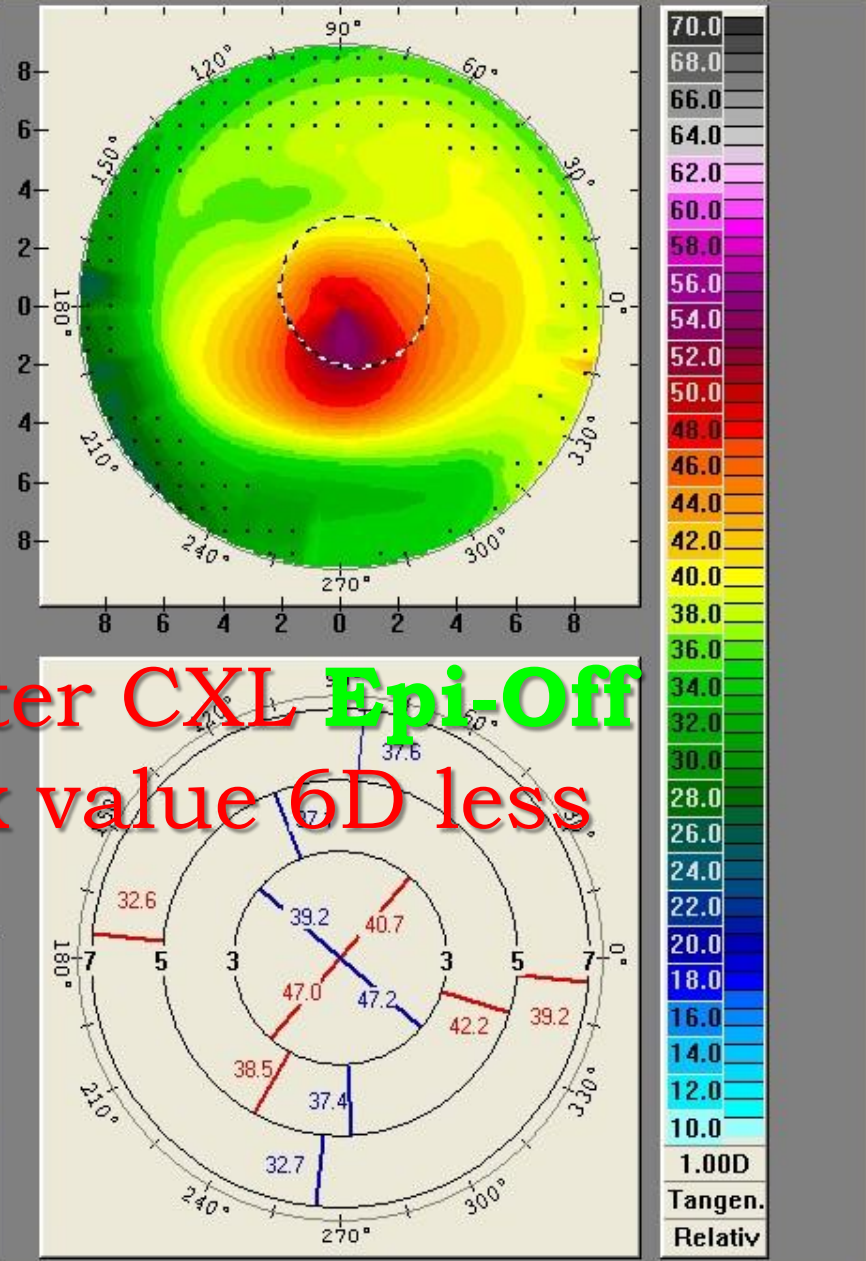


Nome:  Data es.:   
 Data di n.:  Occhio:  Data tic.:

*L.A. 27ys ♀ - LE*



**2 ys after CXL Epi-Off**  
**K max value 6D less**



**Dati keratometrici : meridiani perpendicolari principali**

K1: 46.2D	94.4°	274.4°
K2: 47.4D		
Ast.: 1.2D		
Asse: 4.4°		
Ecc.: 0.97	184.4°	4.4°
HH: 11.5		AA: 73%



*L.A. 27ys ♀*

Pre CXL **Epi-On** TE

RE +1sf=-1.75(90°) 20/40

Pre CXL **Epi-Off**

LE -0.50sf=-1.75(40°) 20/30

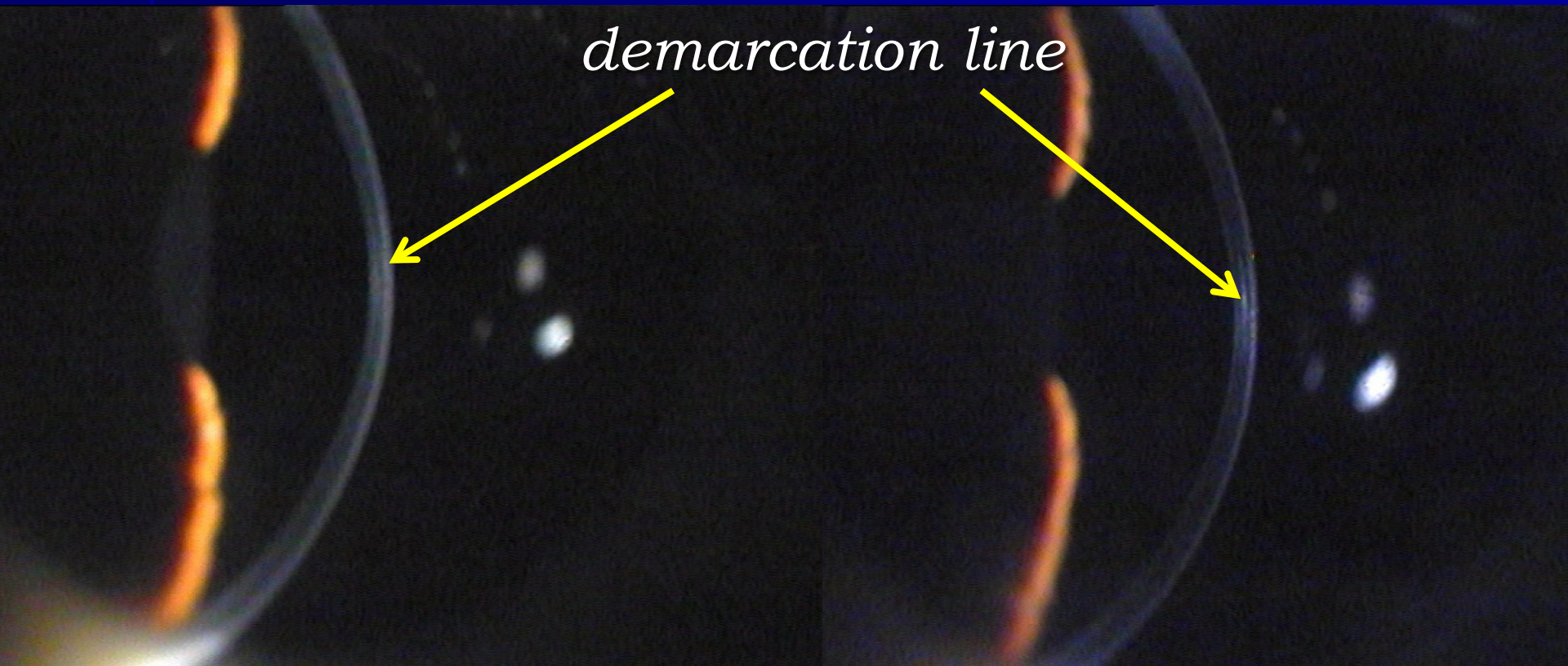
12 ms after CXL **Epi-On** TE

RE +2sf=-3(100°) 20/30

2 ys after CXL **Epi-Off**

LE +1.75sf=-2.25(180°)

20/20



# CXL **Epi-On** Results at 2 yrs FU

*Transepithelial **Epi-On** CXL procedure showed a relative instability with a regression of functional outcomes returning to baseline at 24 months of f-up*

*(Caporossi A, EVER 2012)*





# CXL Epi-Off

Vs

# CXL Epi-On

- More effective
- Shorter riboflavin loading time
- Solid laboratory and theoretical evidence
- Very long experimentation and follow-up

- Easier technique
- Less complications
- Also for thin corneas (<400mm)
- Shorter recovery time
- Absence of post-treatment pain
- Less intensive postop management
- Better patient compliance
- Usefull in pediatrics
- Regression of functional outcomes?

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**CXL Epi-Off**

**Vs**

**CXL Epi-On**



**Thanks**



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