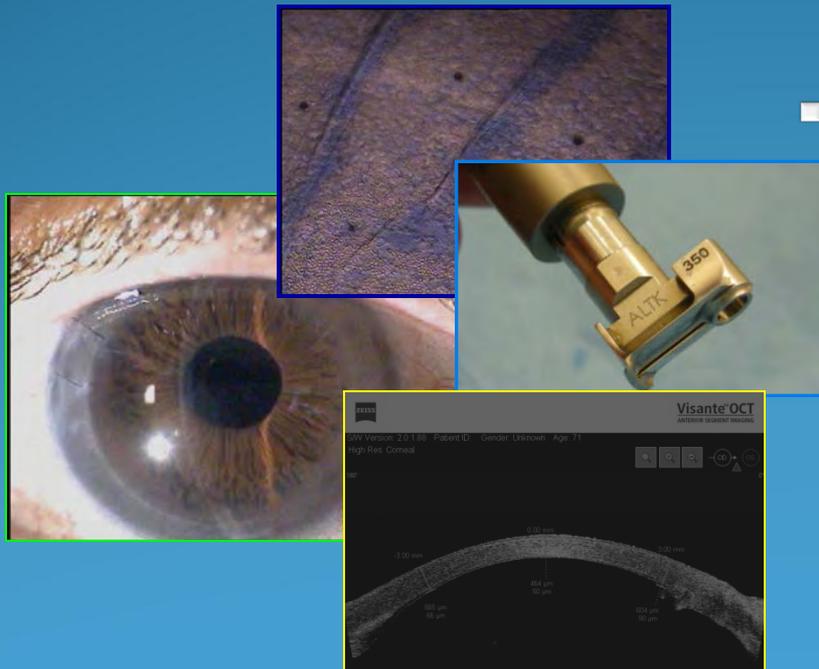




# Lenticoli pretagliati per ultra-thin DSAEK

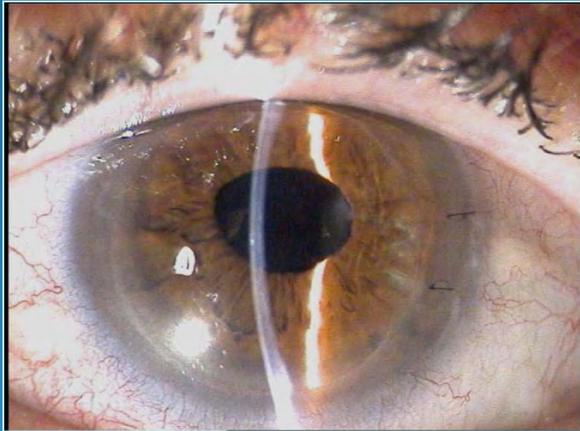
Standardizzazione della procedura di preparazione in Banca e risultati clinici



**Augusto Pocobelli**

San Giovanni Addolorata Hospital  
Rome - ITALY

**Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK)  
is a stroma-sparing transplant technique that selectively replaces  
dysfunctional corneal endothelium**



## **Advantages: DSAEK vs PK**



- ✓ **Faster visual recovery**
- ✓ **Minimal refractive change**
- ✓ **Minimal postoperative ocular surface complications**
- ✓ **Better postoperative corneal integrity**

The DSAEK technique requires lamellar dissection of the donor graft prior to the implantation of the posterior donor lenticule into the patient's eye



dissection using a microkeratome



## Precut Tissue in Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty

### *Donor Characteristics and Early Postoperative Complications*

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Edwin S. Chen, MD,<sup>1</sup> Mark A. Terry, MD,<sup>1,2</sup> Neda Shamie, MD,<sup>1</sup> Karen L. Hoar, MD, FRCSC,<sup>1</sup>  
Daniel J. Friend, MS<sup>2</sup>

**Conclusion:** The use of precut tissue in DSAEK had a low rate of early postoperative complications such as graft dislocation (1%) and primary graft failure (0%). A wide range of donor characteristics such as donor age, death to transplantation time, precutting to transplantation time, and donor lenticule thickness resulted in excellent adhesion of the tissue and clear grafts. *Ophthalmology* 2008;115:497-502 © 2008 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



## **Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK): The Tenuous Relationship Between Graft Thickness And Visual Results**

*Mark A. Terry<sup>1,2</sup>, Jennifer Y. Li<sup>1</sup>, Jeffrey Goshe<sup>1</sup>, David L. Davis-Boozer<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Corneal Services, Devers Eye Institute, Portland, OR; <sup>2</sup>Vision Research Laboratory, Lions Eye Bank of Oregon, Portland, OR.*

The 38 grafts that were thicker than 200 microns had a mean LogMAR vision of 0.245 (20/35), which was significantly worse than the grafts 200 microns or less (Mann-Whitney:  $p=0.003$ ).

# Introduction and working hypothesis

- ❑ Main challenges during DSAEK:
  - To minimize endothelial damage of the donor PLD
  - To minimize iatrogenic damage (insertion of the tissue in A.C.)
  
- ❑ We have standardized a procedure of Ultra - thin DSAEK using de-swelling medium THIN-C before cut with clinical evidences of better and faster visual recovery.

Working hypothesis was to combine:

- ultra-thin tissue
- with microinjector compatible with minimal incision of the cornea (3,5 mm)



preservation of endothelial cells has to be evaluated

# Experimental design

human corneas in cold storage medium EUSOL-C  
(n=14)

Control without  
deswelling (EUSOL-C)  
(n=8)

Precut deswelling in  
**THIN-C** at 4°C for 4h  
(n=6)

Microkeratome cut  
(Moria)  
350micron cutting  
depth (n=8)

Microkeratome cut  
(Moria)  
350 micron cutting  
depth (n=6)

glide transit simulation  
PLD 8.5 mm.

glide transit simulation  
PLD 8.5 mm.

Tan  
endoglide

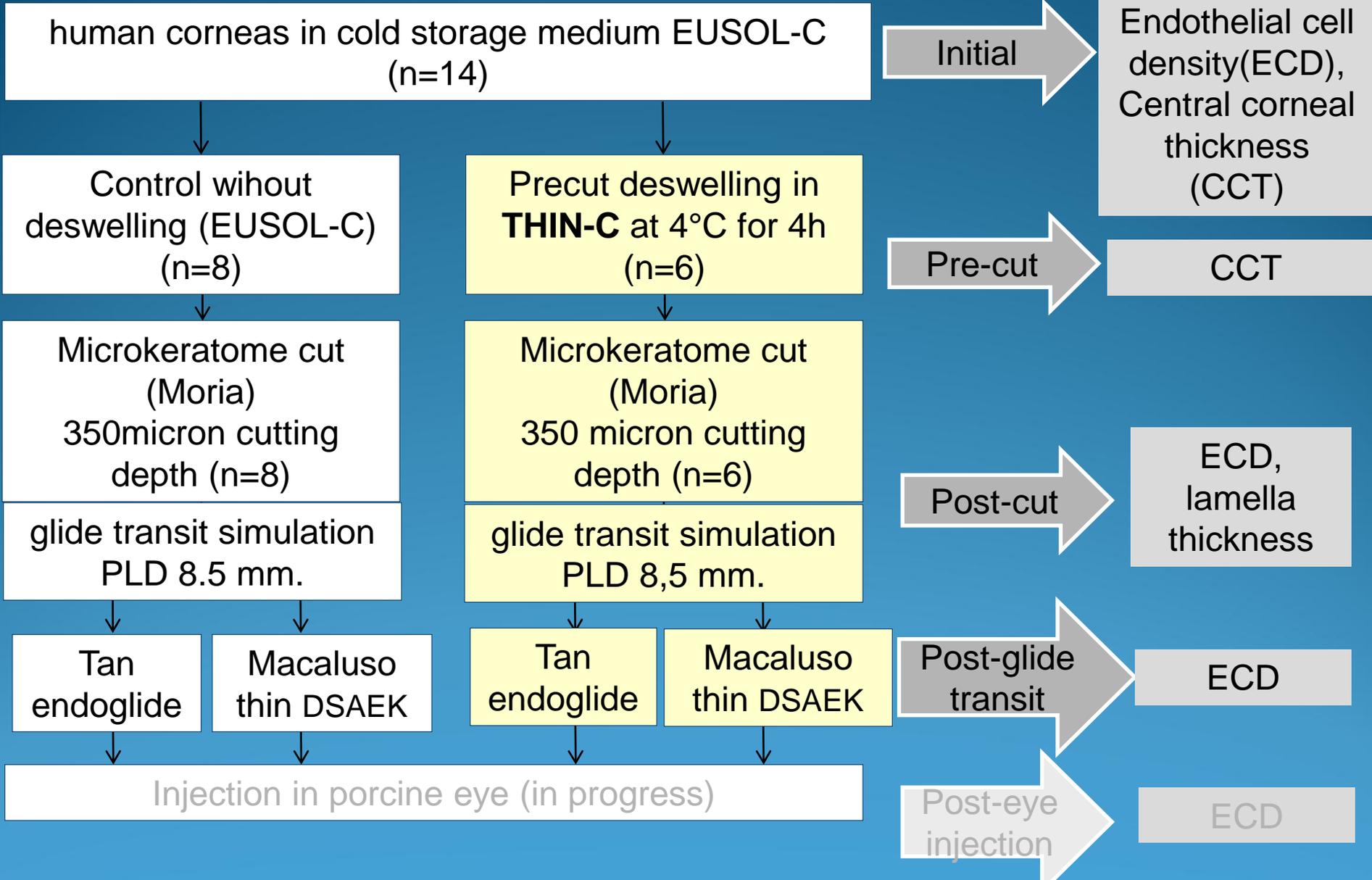
Macaluso  
thin DSAEK

Tan  
endoglide

Macaluso  
thin DSAEK

Injection in porcine eye (in progress)

# Experimental design



# Materials

## Media

- EUSOL-C (ALCHIMIA) cold storage medium
- THIN-C (ALCHIMIA) pre-cut deswelling medium



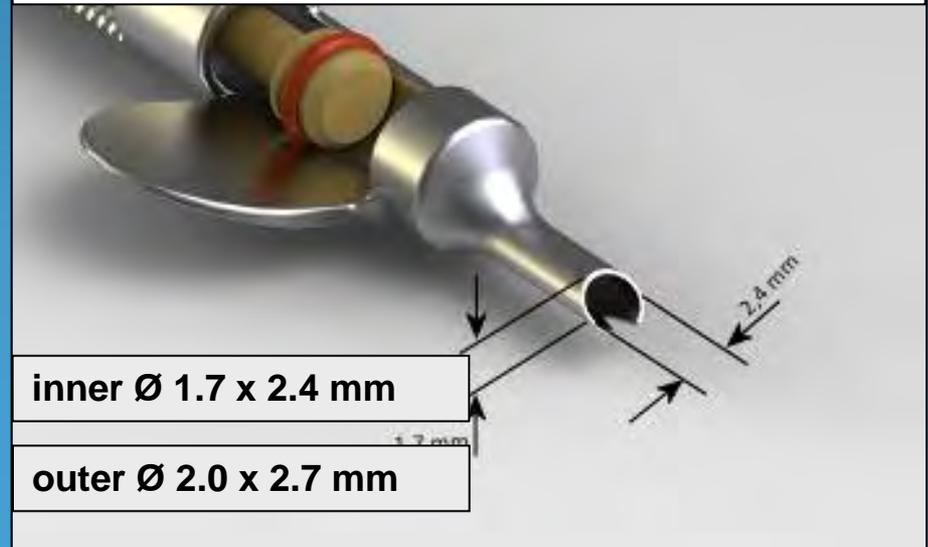
## Glides

### Tan endoglide



outer horiz Ø  
3.85mm

### Macaluso THIN-DSAEK inserter (Janach)



inner Ø 1.7 x 2.4 mm

outer Ø 2.0 x 2.7 mm

# Methods

## Tissue evaluation

- **Corneal Central Thickness and lamella thickness**

- OCT VISANTE (ZEISS) equipped with adaptor for in-vial measurement

Evaluation of a new method for the measurement of corneal thickness in eye bank posterior corneal lenticules using Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography

Domenico Amato,<sup>1</sup> Marco Lombardo,<sup>1</sup> Francesco Oddone,<sup>1</sup> Mario Nubile,<sup>2</sup> Rossella A M Colabelli Gisoldi,<sup>3</sup> Carlo M Villani,<sup>3</sup> Sonia Yoo,<sup>4</sup> Jean-Marie Parel,<sup>4</sup> Augusto Pocobelli<sup>3</sup>

*Br J Ophthalmol* 2011;**95**:580–584. doi:10.1136/bjo.2010.190595

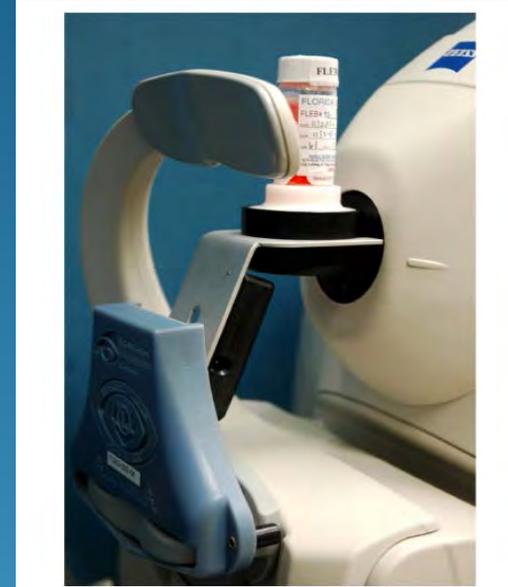


Figure 1. The Florida Eye Bank tissue adaptor does not require modification of optical coherence tomography and can be easily plugged in and out without compromising the sterility of donor corneal tissue.<sup>1,2</sup>

- **Endothelial Cell Density (ECD)**

- Trypan Blue staining and cell count using digital inverted microscope and software NAVIS (Nidek Technologies)

**Precut Donor Tissue for Descemet Stripping Automated Keratoplasty: Anterior Hinged Lamella On versus Off.**

Amato D, Oddone F, Nubile M, Maria Colabelli Gisoldi RA, Villani CM, Pocobelli A.

*Br J Ophthalmol.* 2010 Apr;**94**(4):519-22.

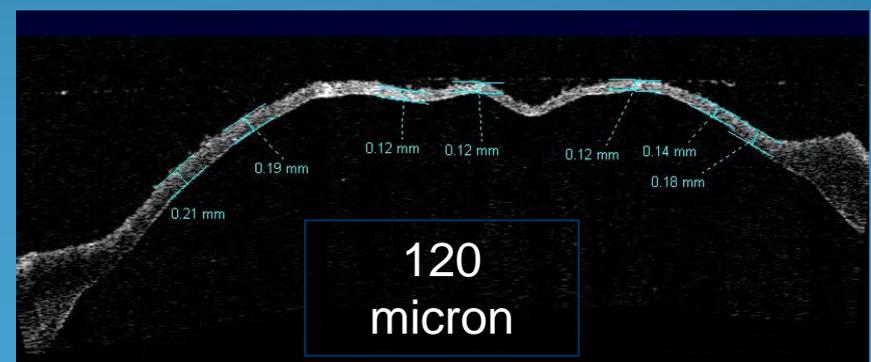
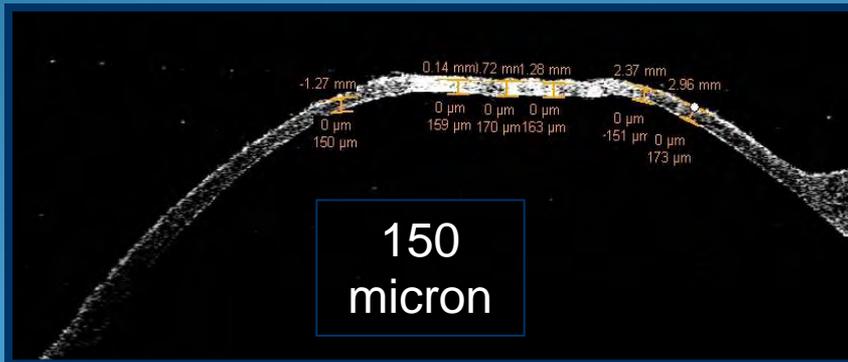


# Central corneal thickness

## Eusol-C treated cornea

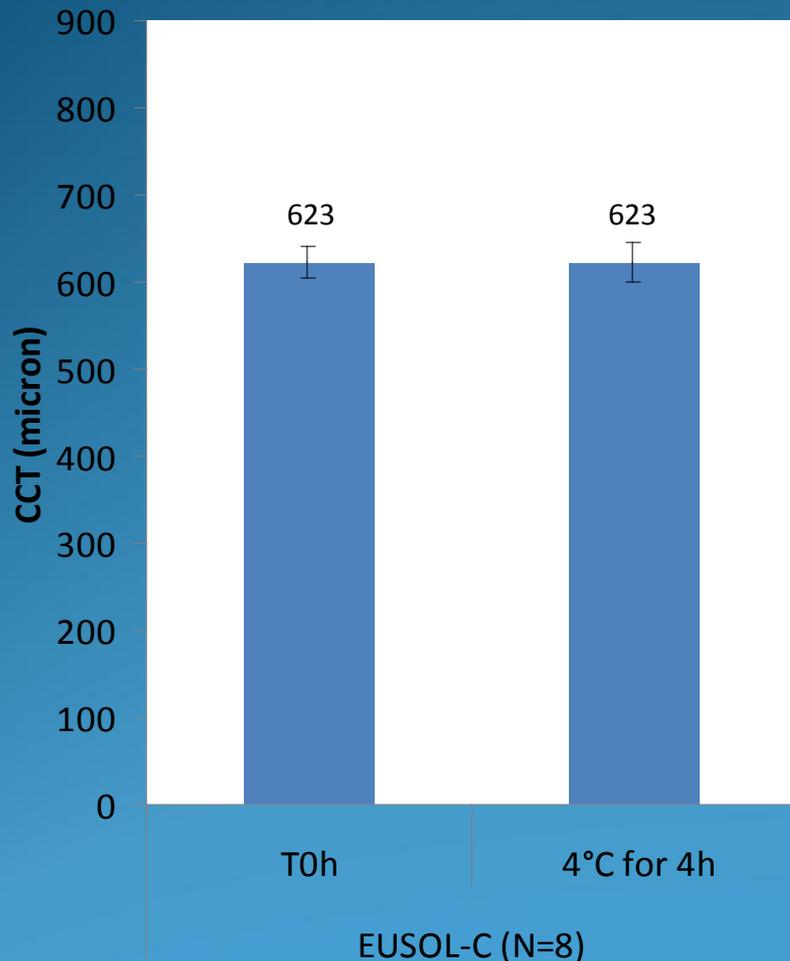


## THIN-C treated cornea

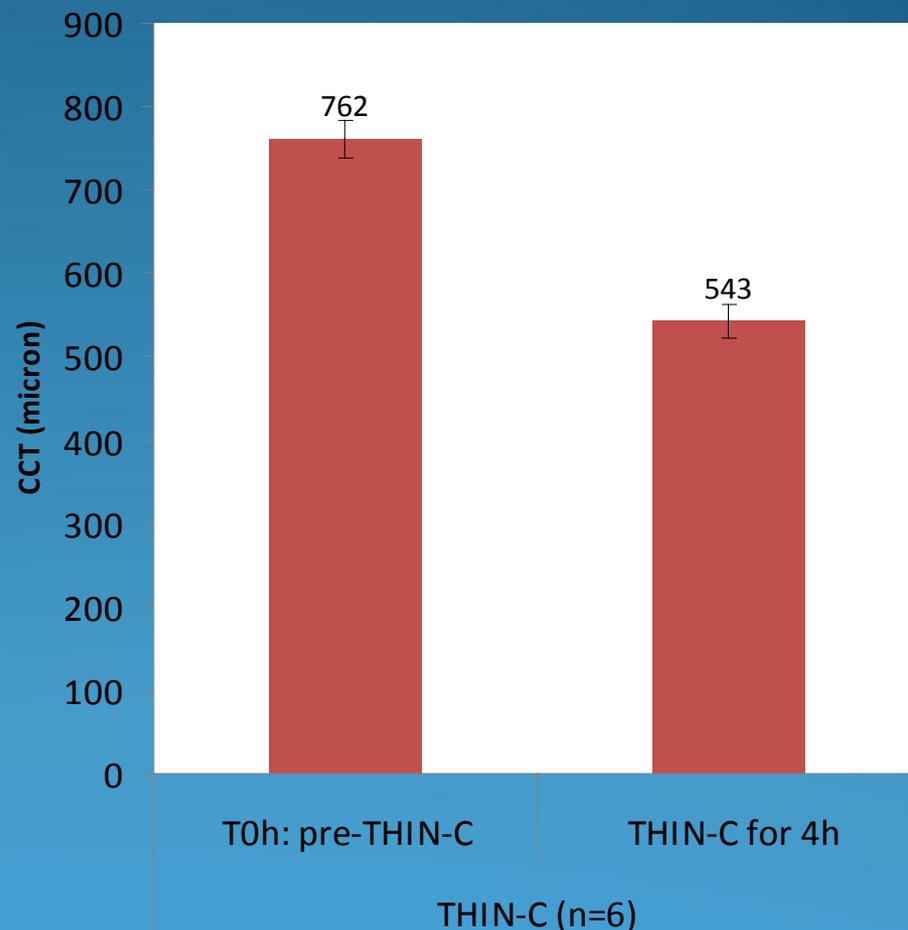


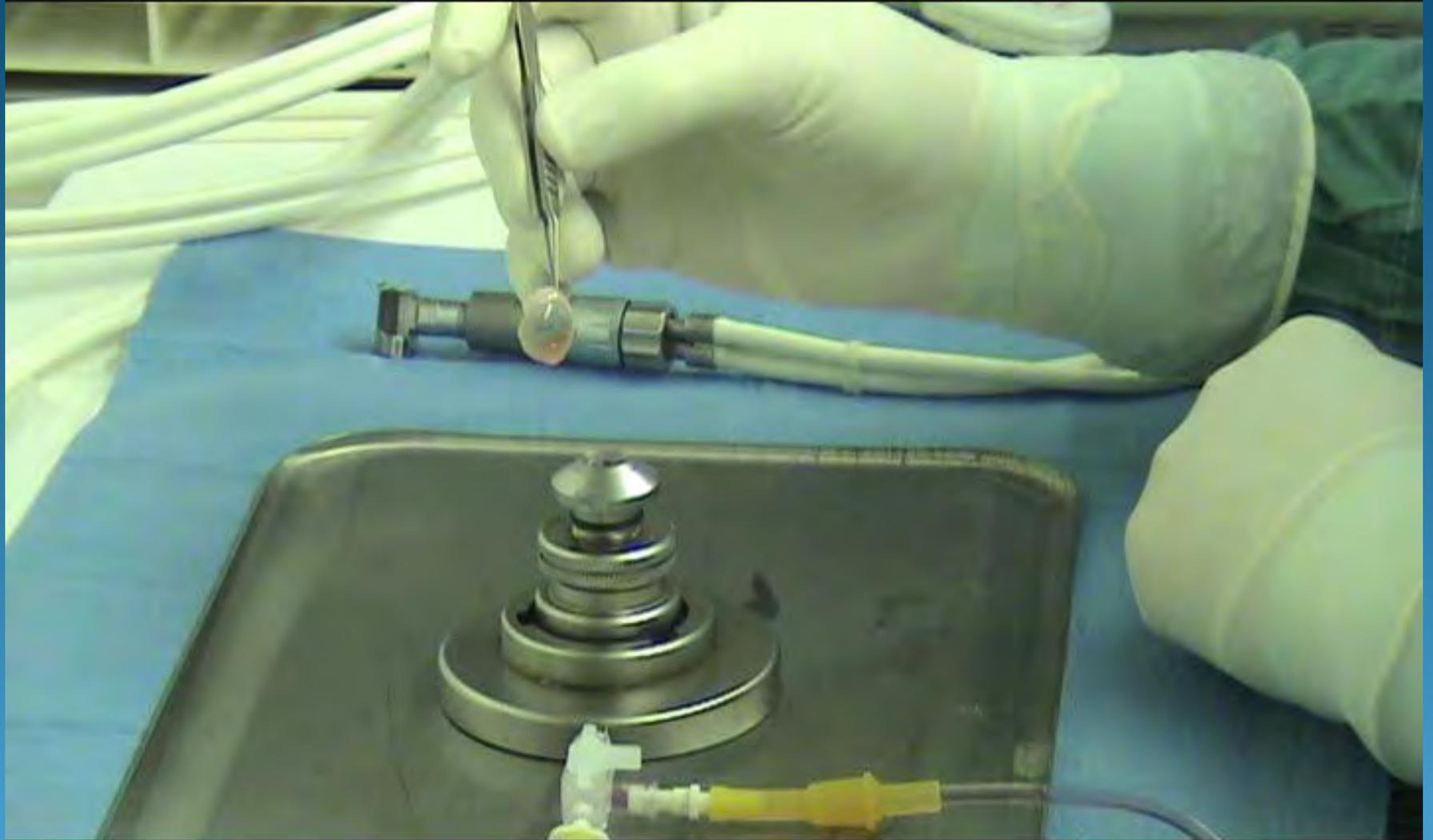
# Corneal thickness before cut

## CONTROL

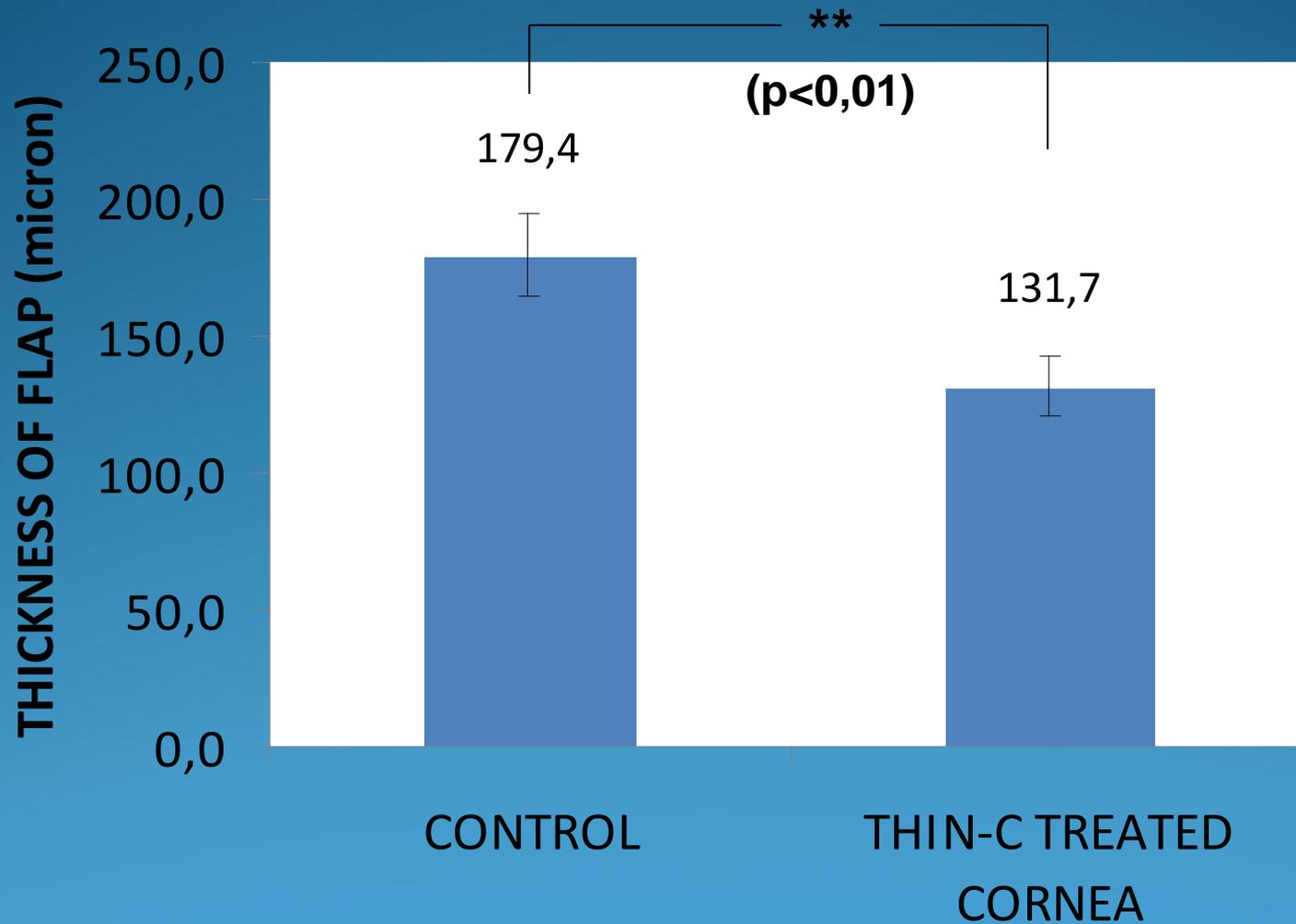


## PRE-CUT DESWELLING IN THIN-C





# Posterior lamellar disc thickness

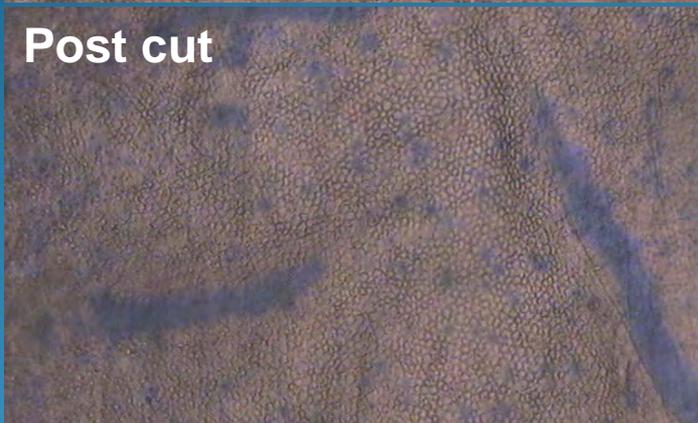


## *Tan endoglide*

Before cut



Post cut



Post injection



## *Macaluso endoglide*

Before cut



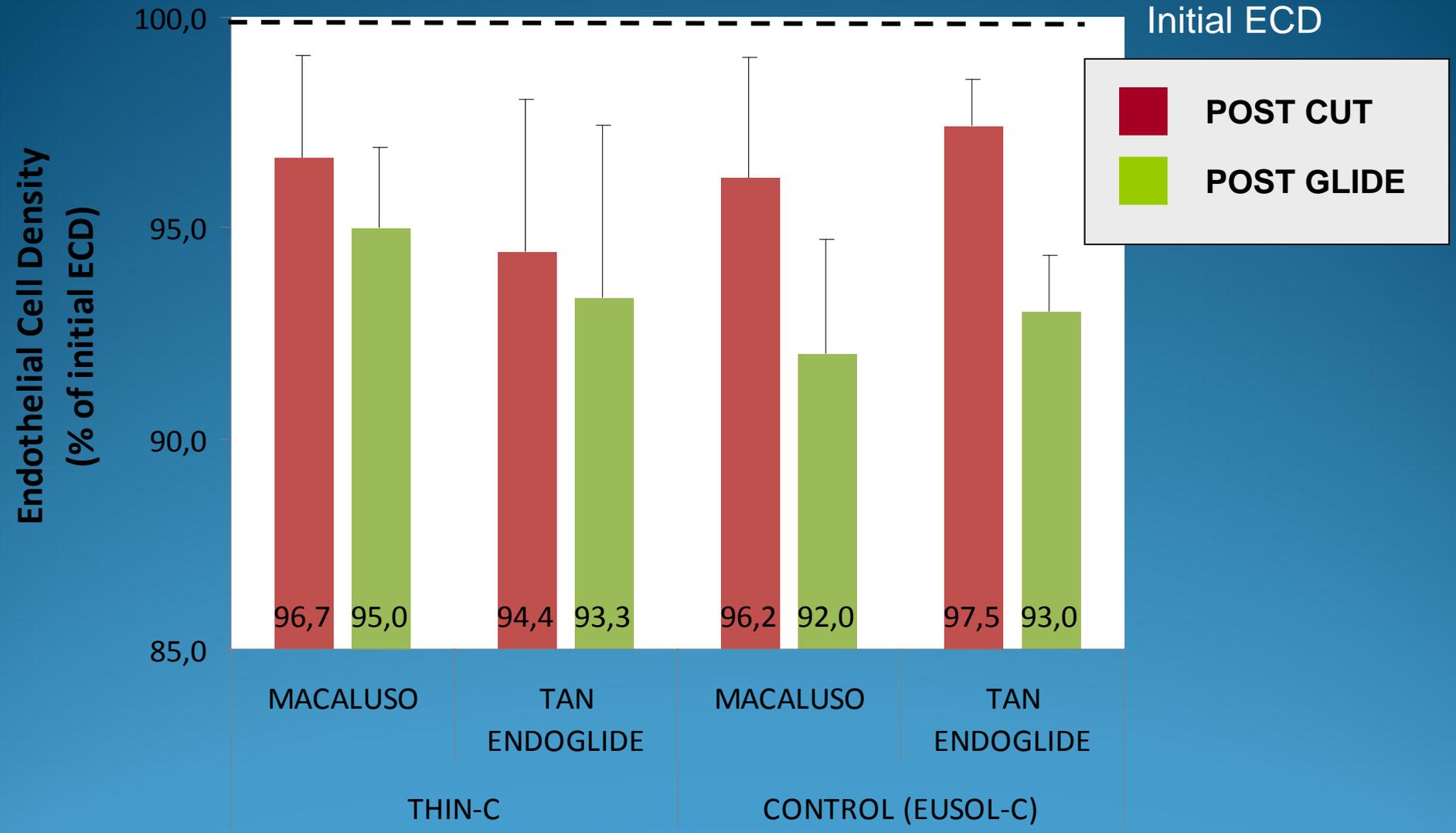
Post cut



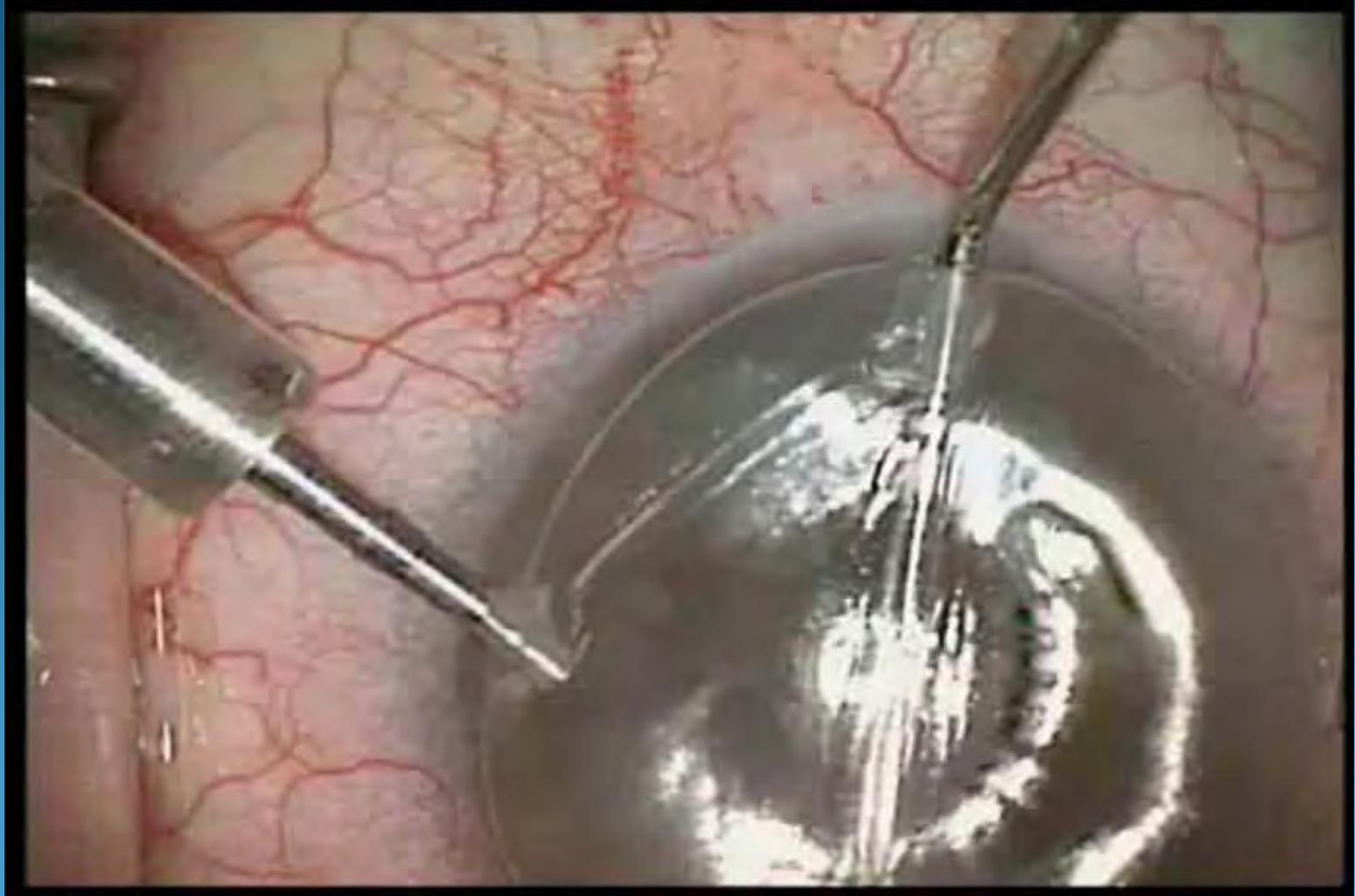
Post injection



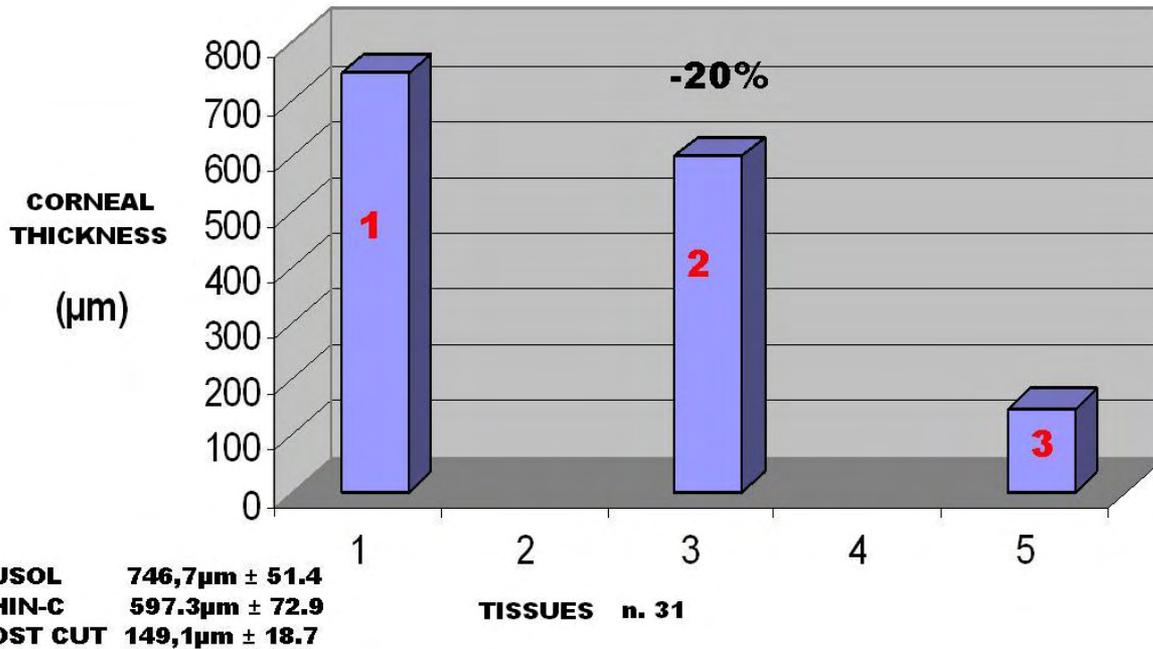
# ECD MONITORING

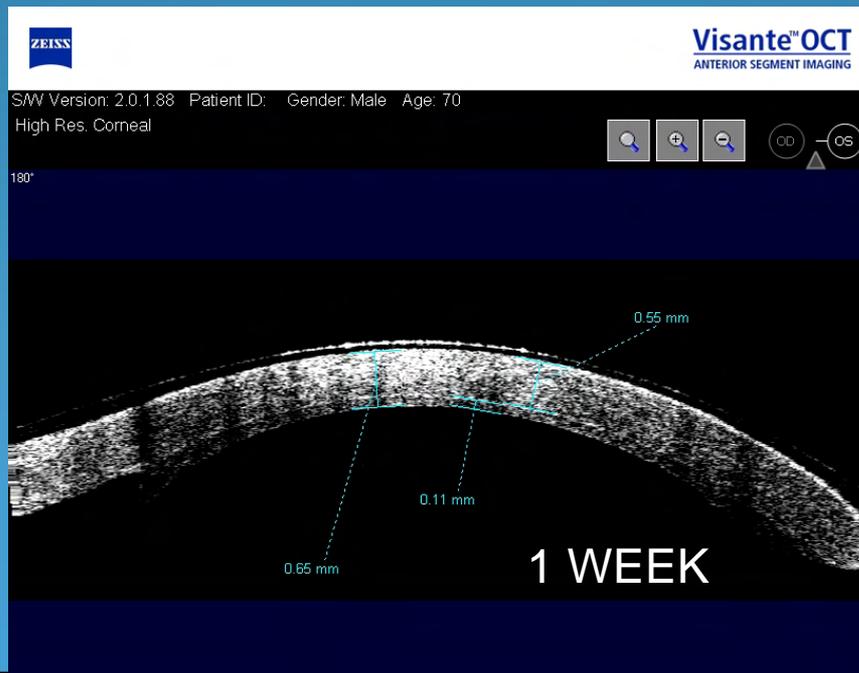
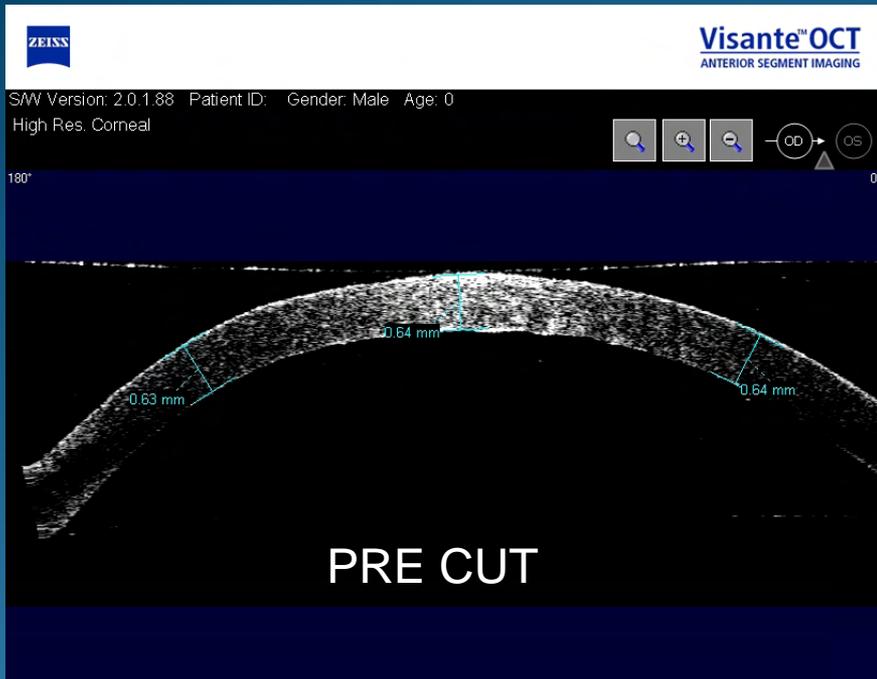


# Ultra-thin DSAEK



# Ultra-thin precut tissues 12 months of follow up





# Ultra-thin DSAEK

ZEISS

6 month follow-up  
BCVA: 0.7

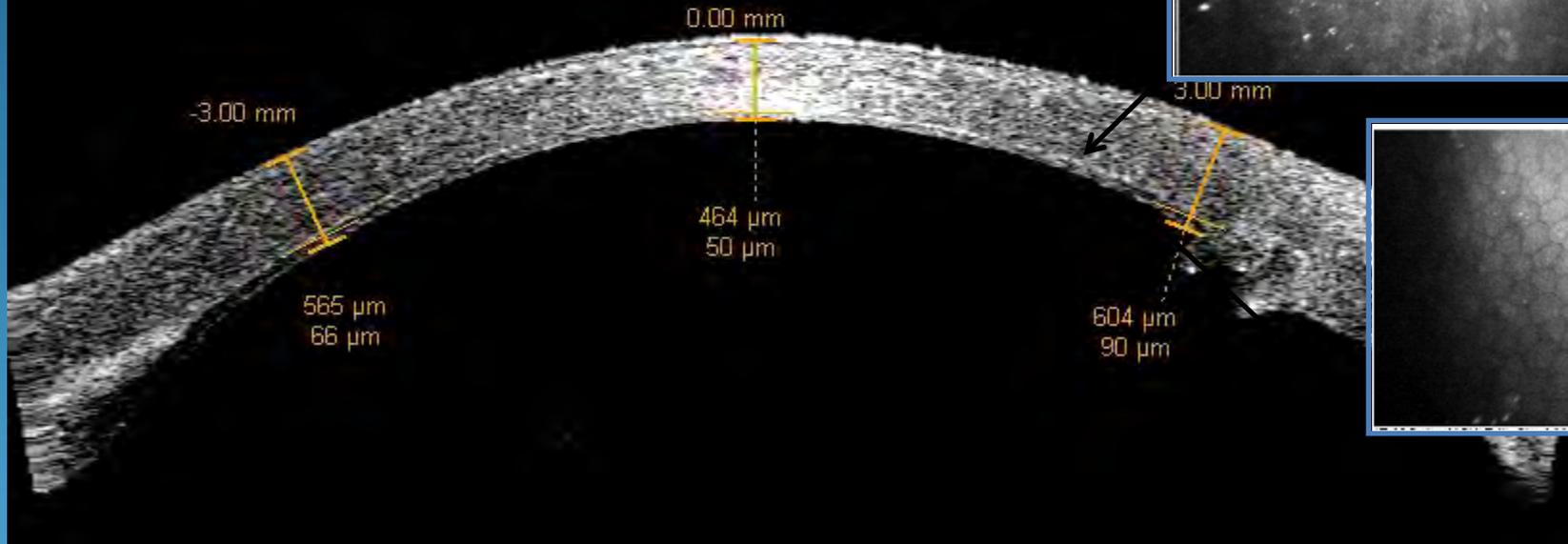
Visante™ OCT  
ANTERIOR SEGMENT IMAGING

SMV Version: 2.0.1.88 Patient ID: Gender: Unknown Age: 71

High Res. Corneal



180°



# Results

# BCVA ( Snellen )

All the patients (31) improved the visual acuity at the end of the follow-up

## Pre-op BCVA

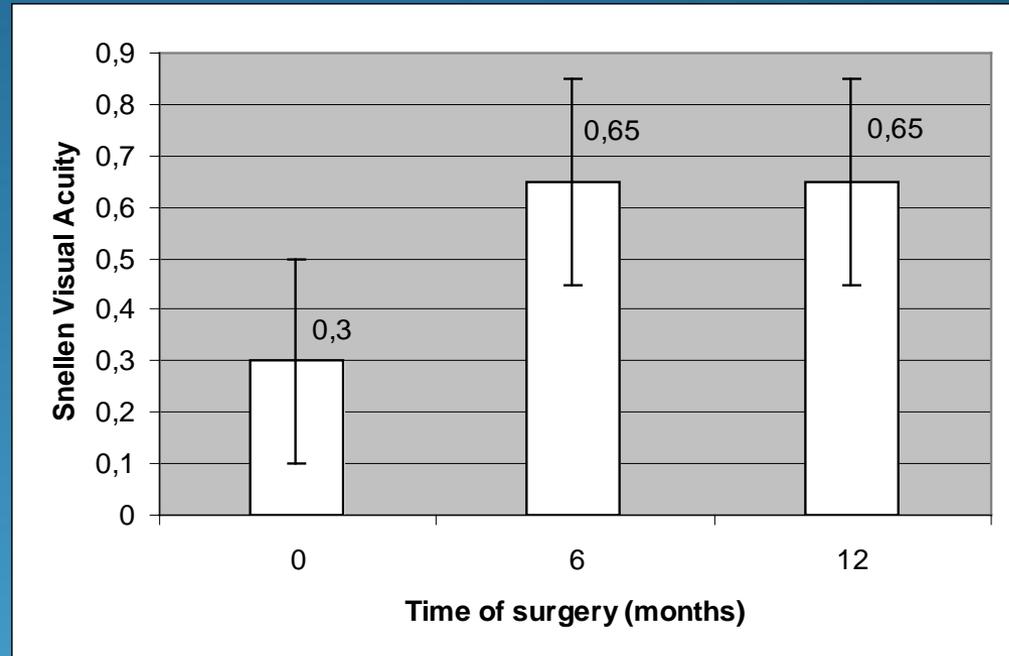
Mean BCVA  $0,25 \pm 0,2$

## Post- op BCVA

6 months fw  $0,65 \pm 0,2$  (31 cases)

12 months fw  $0,65 \pm 0,23$  (31 cases)

12 months fw excluding comorbidity  $0,67 \pm 0,22$  (25 cases)



At 6 months after surgery, BCVA was improved in all eyes (100%).

At 12 months a further improvement has been recorded excluding comorbidity.

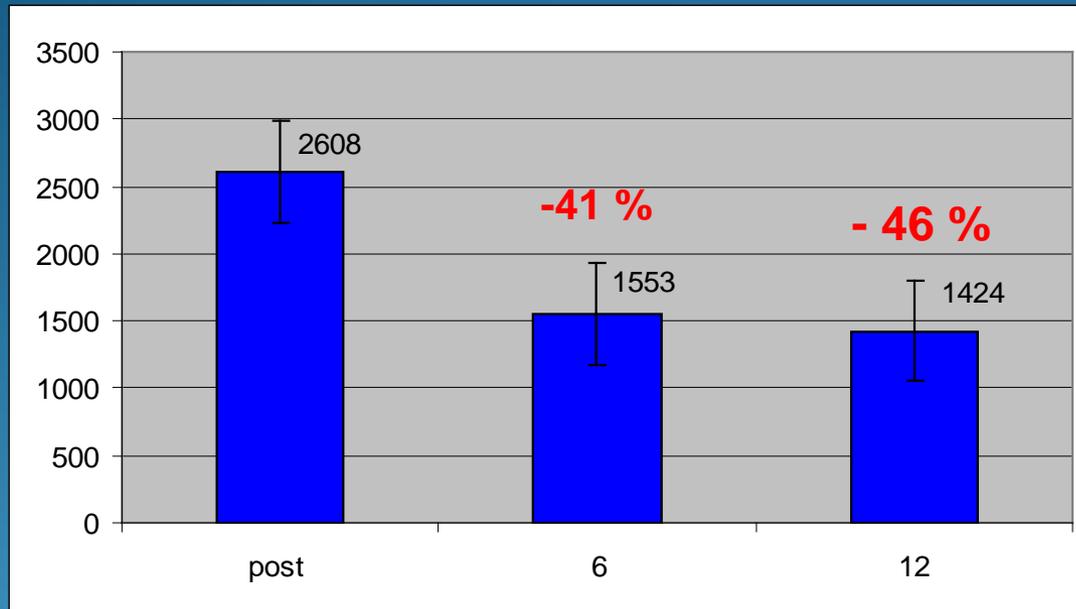
In 7/31 (22,6%) patients 1,0 BCVA was reached at 12 months.

# Results

ECD (Specular Microscopy)

The mean pre-operative ECD (post – cut) was 2608,7 cells/ mm<sup>2</sup>

ECD cells/mm<sup>2</sup>



ECD loss % 12 months

- 46%

At the end of follow-up, the average ECD was 1553,2±329.13 cells/mm<sup>2</sup> and 1424,1±438.30 cells/mm<sup>2</sup> at 6 and 12 months respectively

Literature Data: ECD loss ranged from 25% to 62% at 6 months after surgery

Terry MA, Shamie N, Chen ES, Phillips PM, Hoar KL, Friend DJ. Pre-cut tissue for Descemet's stripping endothelial keratoplasty: vision, astigmatism, and endothelial survival. Ophthalmology 2009; 116: 248-256.

Ichihashi Y, Tomita M, Shimazaki J; The short-term results of Descemet's Stripping and Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty; Nippon Ganka Gakkai Zasshi. 2009 Jul; 113(7):721-6

# Conclusions

ZEISS

Visante™ OCT  
ANTERIOR SEGMENT IMAGING

SW Version: 2011.88 Patient ID: Gander, Jrgen Age: 70  
High Res. Corneal  
180° 0°

An ultra- thin pre-cut tissue for DSAEK (110-190  $\mu\text{m}$ ) at the time of surgery may offer better handling characteristics and lead to minimal manipulation of tissue during surgery.

ECD loss in Ultra - Thin DSAEK is comparable with literature's data.  
BCVA at 12 months improved in all the patients  
22% of the patients reached 1,0 BCVA at 12 months follow-up

Larger and longer-term studies are required to evaluate how the graft thickness may influence the outcome of DSAEK surgery.

Ultra- thin pre- cut tissues can be inserted by a new generation of donor delivery systems ( Busin glide or Macaluso glide) suitable with a corneal incision of 3,2 mm or less ECD loss -23%

Thinner is better

# Acknowledgments



*A. Pocobelli*

*C. Amici*

*R. Donati*

*S. Lorenzetti*

**ALCHIMIA**

*Domenico Amato*

*Jana D'Amato Tothova*

**THANK YOU**

# Conclusions

- A de-swelling of the tissue before the cut allows consistent preparation of ultra-thin PLD for DSAEK with a standardized procedure
- Ultra-thin tissues can be utilized with both the Macaluso THIN-DSAEK Inserter and the Tan Endoglide without damaging the endothelium
- The Macaluso THIN-DSAEK Inserter combined with ultra-thin PLD gives the surgical advantage of a smaller incision (3.2-3.5mm)
- More corneas have to be treated to confirm the statistical significance of the present observations

**Thinner is better**

# Purpose

To monitor endothelial cell density (ECD) at different steps of a simulated DSAEK surgery, after use of THIN-C de-swelling medium and two different insertion glides.

6 month follow-up  
BCVA: 0.7



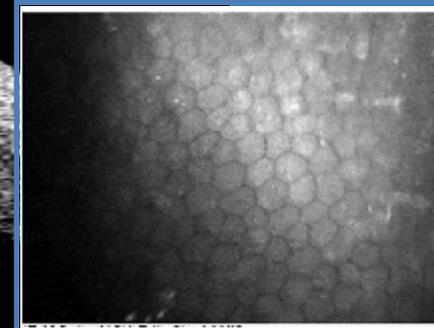
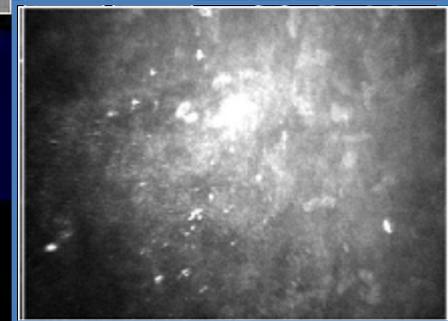
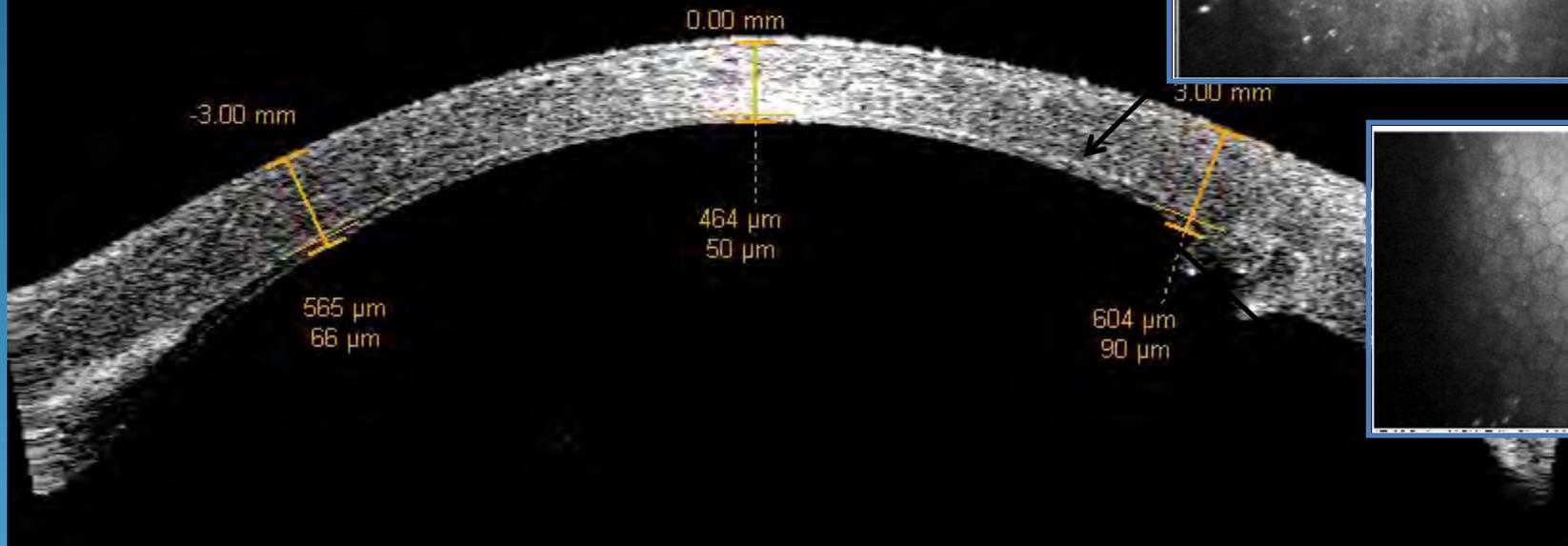
Visante™ OCT  
ANTERIOR SEGMENT IMAGING

SMV Version: 2.0.1.88 Patient ID: Gender: Unknown Age: 71

High Res. Corneal



180°



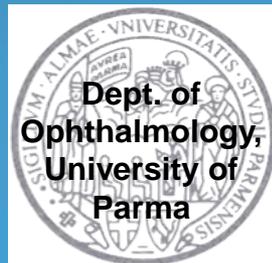
# Monitoring of endothelial cell density during simulation of DSAEK phases in vitro using THIN-C de-swelling medium and two different glides for endothelium insertion .

*A. Pocobelli (1), C. Amici (1), R. Donati (1), R. Leaci (2), D. Amato (3), J. D'Amato Tothova (3)*

*(1) Eye Bank of Rome, S. Giovanni Addolorata Hospital, Rome*

*(2) Dept. of Ophthalmology, University of Parma, Parma*

*(3) R&D Alchimia.Srl, Ponte San Nicolò, Italy*



Dept. of  
Ophthalmology,  
University of  
Parma

ALCHIMIA

**XXIV Annual Meeting**  
**European Eye Bank Association**

**World Trade Centre**  
**Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

**January 20/21, 2012**

# FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Dr. A. Pocobelli, Dr. C. Amici, Dr. R. Donati and Dr. R. Leaci have no financial interest in any product involved the present study.

Dr. D. Amato and Dr.J. D'Amato Tothova are employed by AlchimiaSrl, company that manufactures corneal media discussed in the present study

# *Complications*

At 12 months a further improvement of BCVA has been recorded in 25 of 31 patients

- 2 patients developed a cataract and they are waiting for a cataract surgery
- 1 patient had a pre-existing maculopathy that worsened
- 1 patient had an open – angle glaucoma in progression
- 1 patient had a corneal decompensation