

DSAEK VS DMEK: TECNICHE A CONFRONTO

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degli Studi
di Ferrara



EK TODAY

GOLD STANDARD

FOR SURGICAL

TREATMENT OF

ENDOTHELIAL

DECOMPENSATION

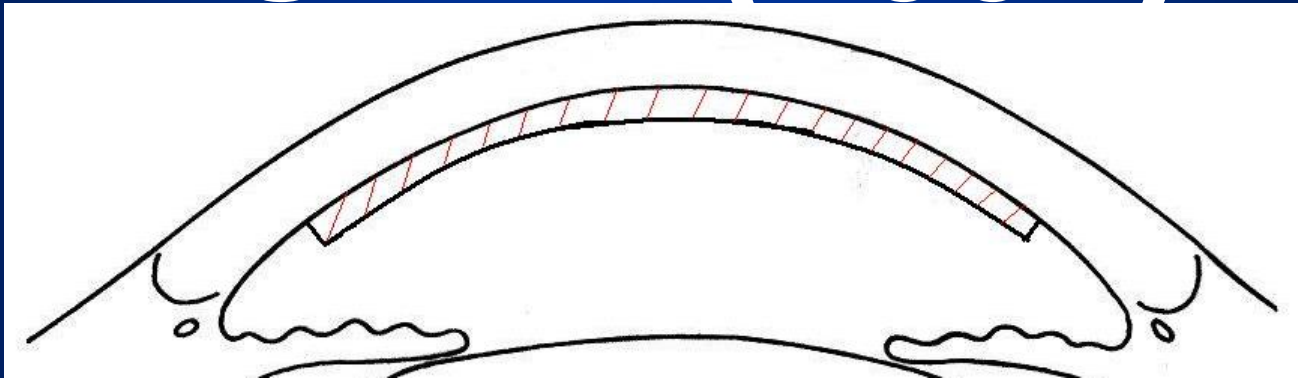
LK POSTERIORE ADDITIVA

(D)escemet (S)tripping

(A)utomated (E)ndothelial

(K)eratoplasty

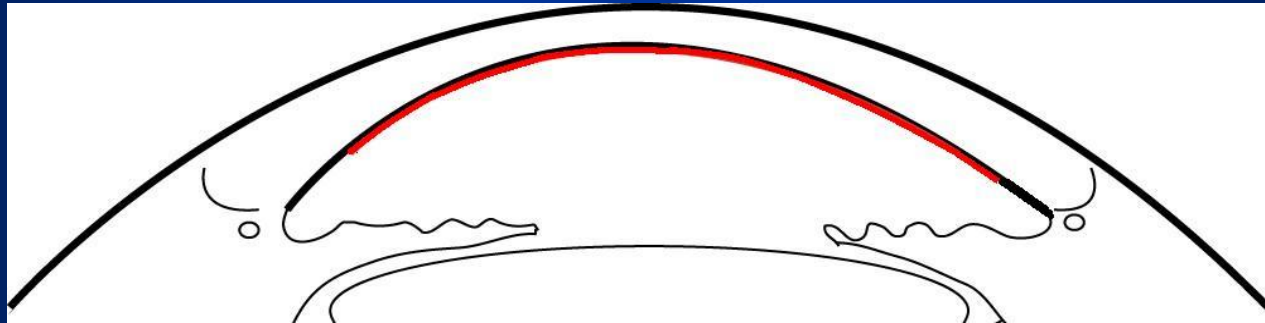
DSAEK (2004)



LK POSTERIORE SOSTITUTIVA

(D)escemet (M)embrane
(E)ndothelial (K)eratoplasty

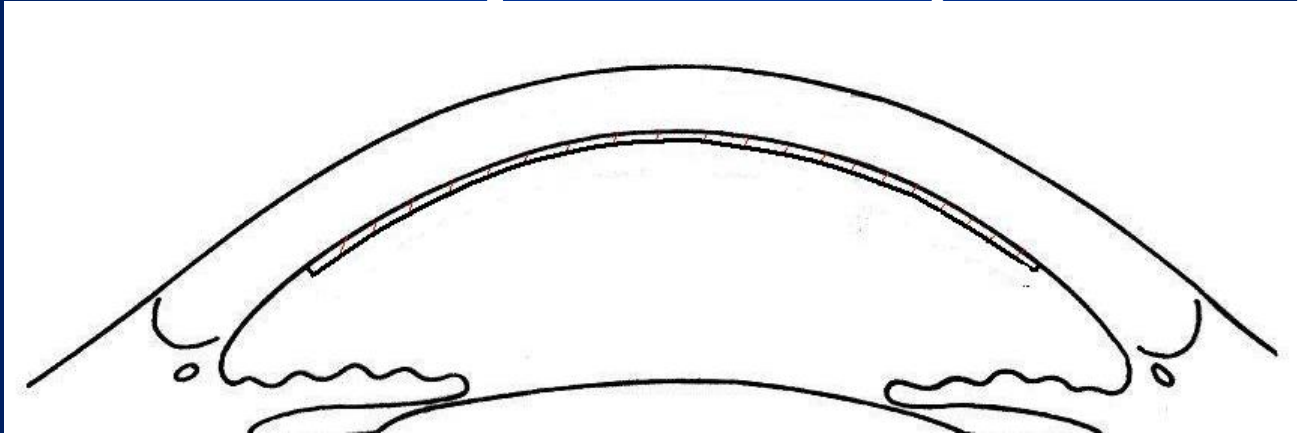
DMEK (Melles, 2006)



LK POSTERIORE ADDITIVA

U(ltra)**T**(hin)-

DSAEK (BUSIN, 2009)



EK IN THE USA

In 2011:

DSAEK $n = \underline{21,100}$

DMEK $n = \underline{343}$

EK IN THE USA

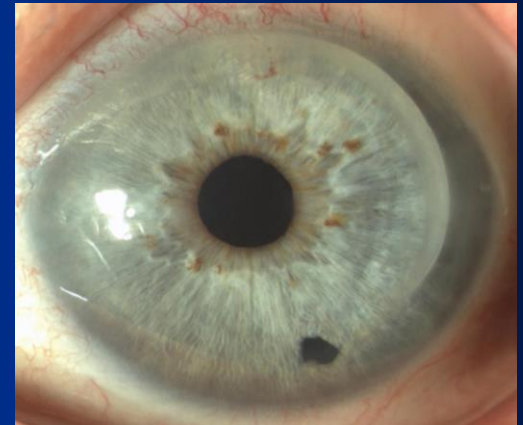
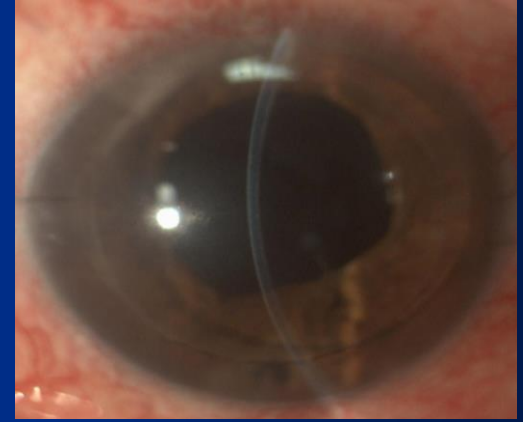
In 2022:

DSAEK $n = \underline{15,544}$

DMEK $n = \underline{15,248}$

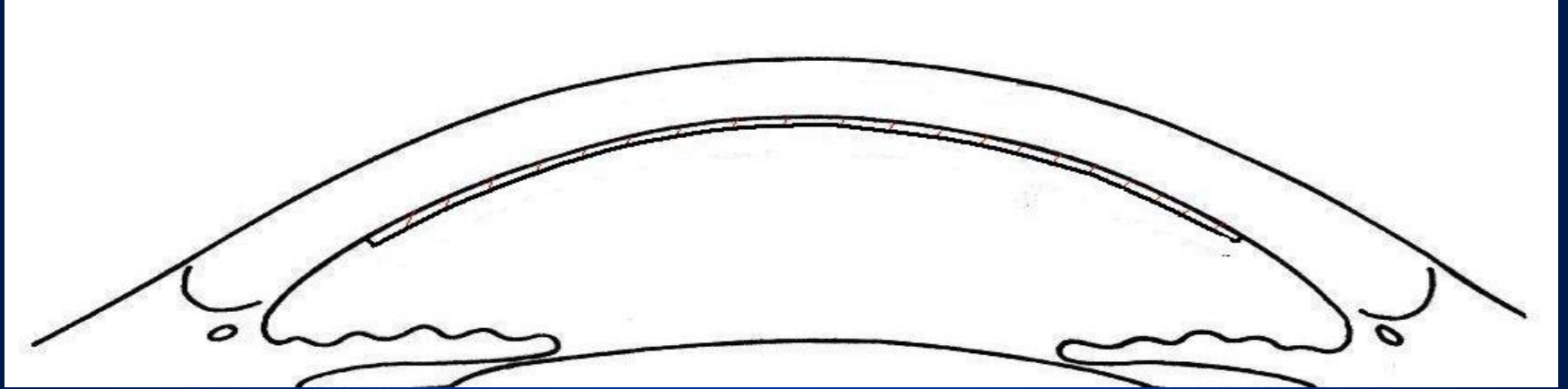
DSAEK

**DSAEK Grafts
Thinner Than 131 μm
Lead to Improved
Visual Outcomes
(Neff et al. 2010)**



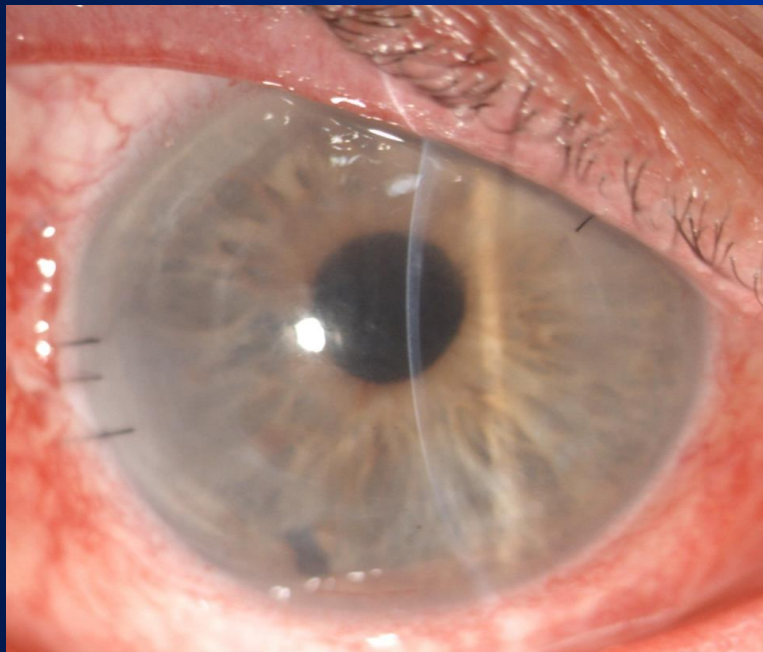
ULTRATHIN (UT) DSAEK

(Busin 2009)



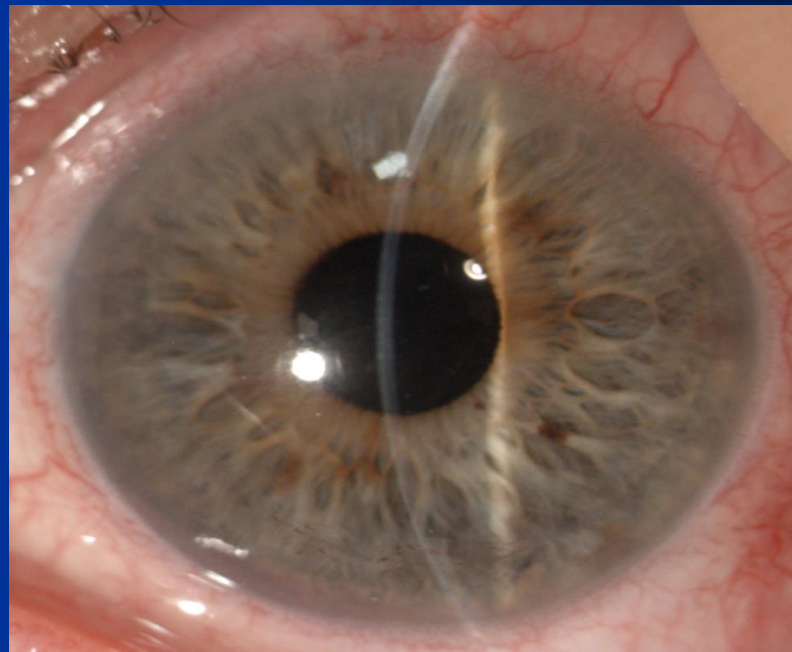
TISSUE REMOVAL = Endothelium
NEW LAMELLA = 30-100 μm

UT-DSAEK/DMEK



OD DMEK

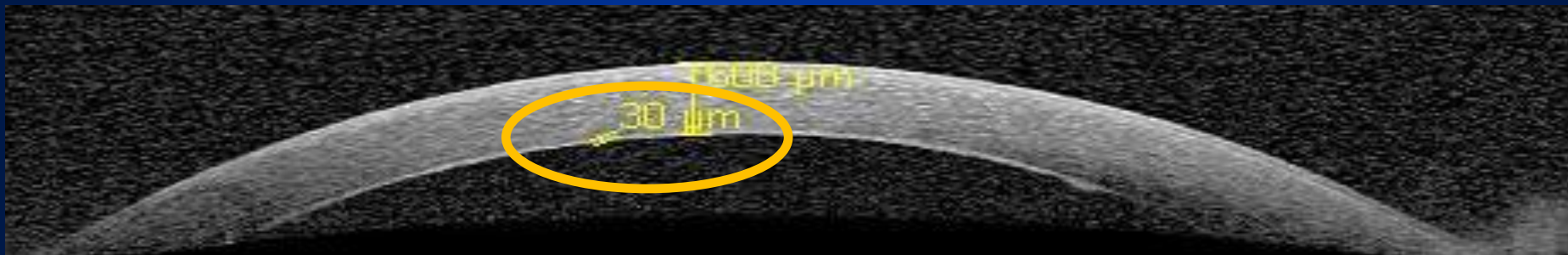
VA = 20/20 (10/10)



OS UT-DSAEK

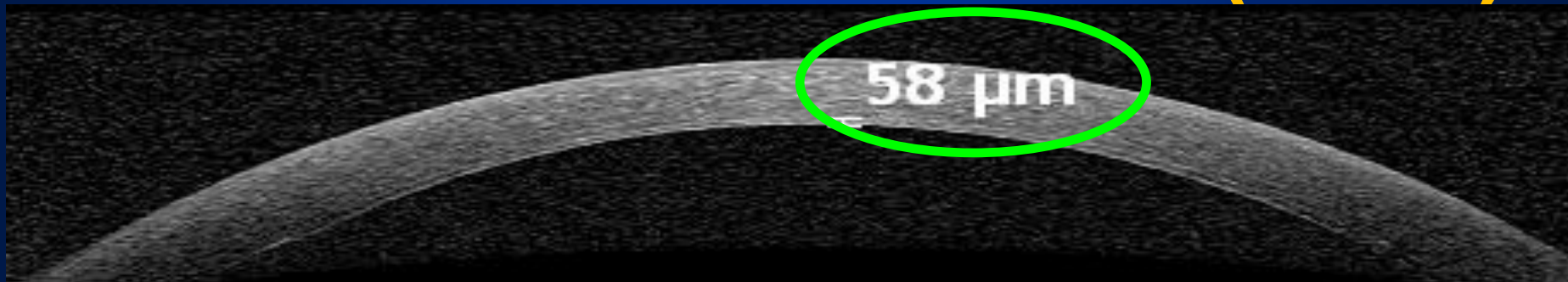
VA = 20/12.5 (16/10)

UT-DSAEK/DMEK



OD DMEK

VA = 20/20 (10/10)



OS UT-DSAEK

VA = 20/12.5 (16/10)

UT-DSAEK (Double Pass)

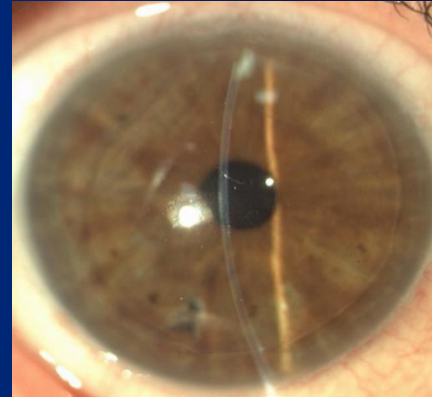
Busin et al. OPHTHALMOLOGY (2013)

264 UT-DSAEK Grafts

CGT < 151 μm = 260 (98.5%)

CGT < 131 μm = 233 (89.0%)

CGT < 101 μm = 182 (69.0%)



Busin Nomogram for Single Pass

AIM = Residual Bed $\pm 150 \mu\text{m}$

$< 520 \mu\text{m}$ 350 Head

$> 520 < 580 \mu\text{m}$ 400 Head

$> 580 \mu\text{m}$ 450 Head

**Removal of the Epithelium Before Cutting Enhances
Depth by $\pm 40 \mu\text{m}$!!!**

UT-DSAEK (Single Pass)

Nahum et al., CORNEA (2015)

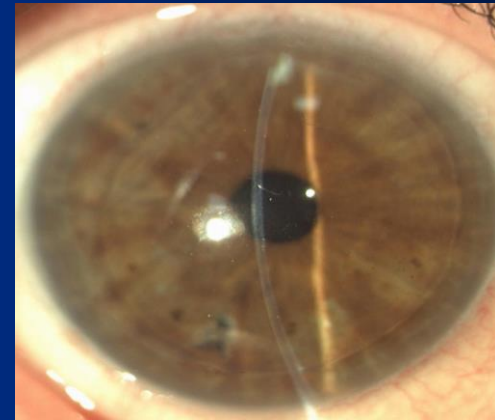
24 UT-DSAEK Grafts

CGT < 151 μm = 23 (95.8%)

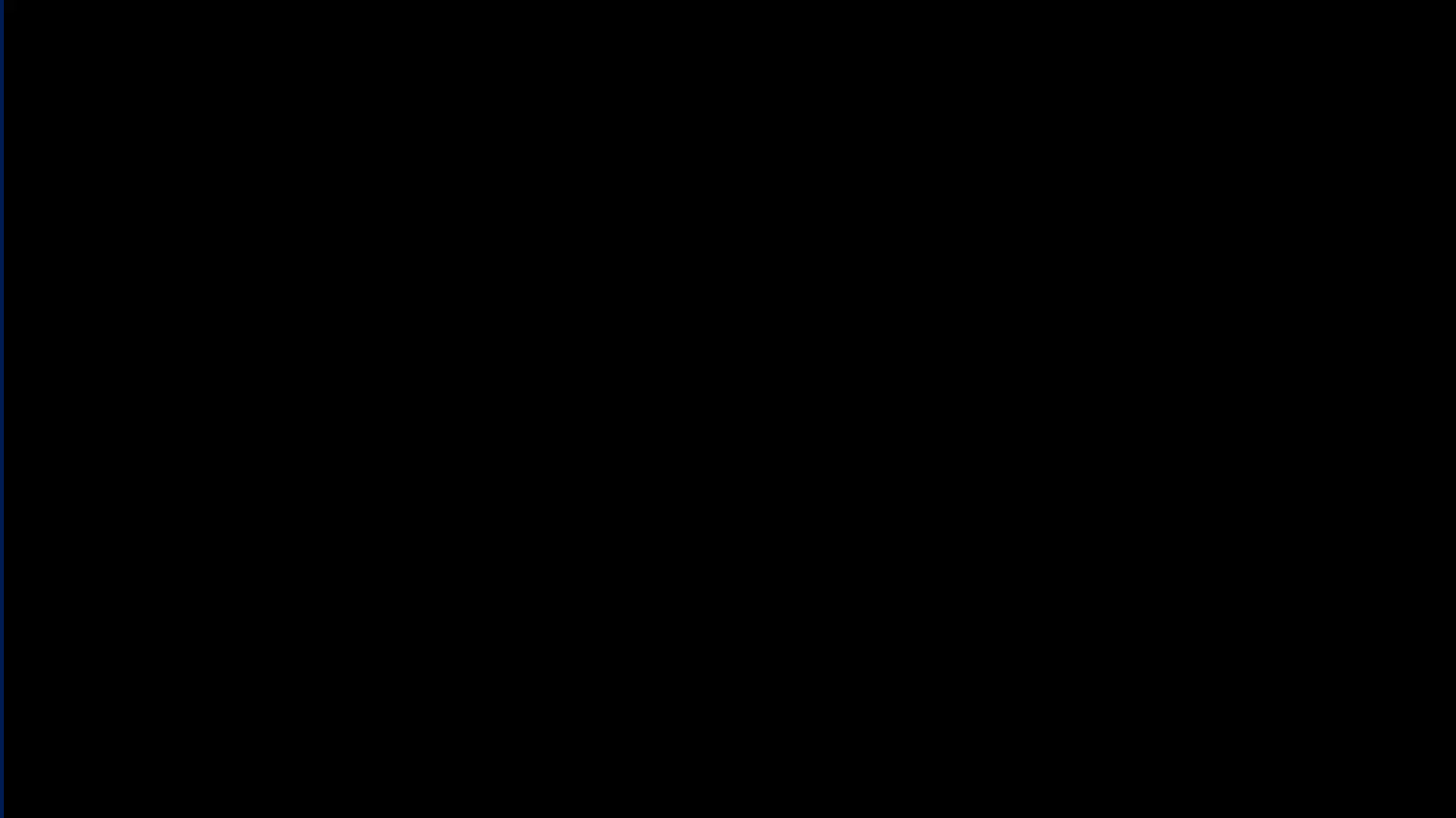
CGT < 131 μm = 22 (91.6%)

CGT < 101 μm = 16 (66.7%)

CGT < 61 μm = 7 (29.2%)



UT-DSAEK (Single-Pass)



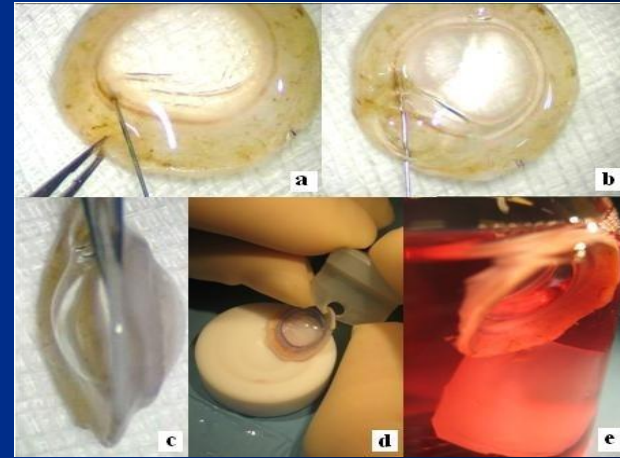
UT-DSAEK/DMEK

DMEK-(PDEK)-UT-DSAEK

Pneumatic Dissection and Storage of Donor Endothelial Tissue for Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty

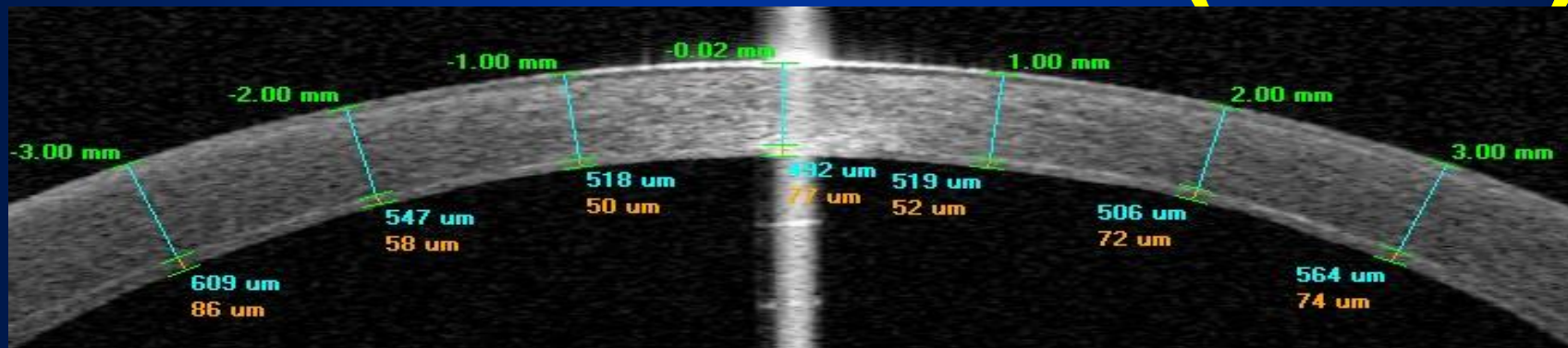
A Novel Technique

Massimo Busin, MD,^{1,2,3} Vincenzo Scorcia, MD,^{1,2} Amit K. Patel, FRCOphth,^{1,3} Gianni Salvalaio,³ Diego Ponzin, MD³

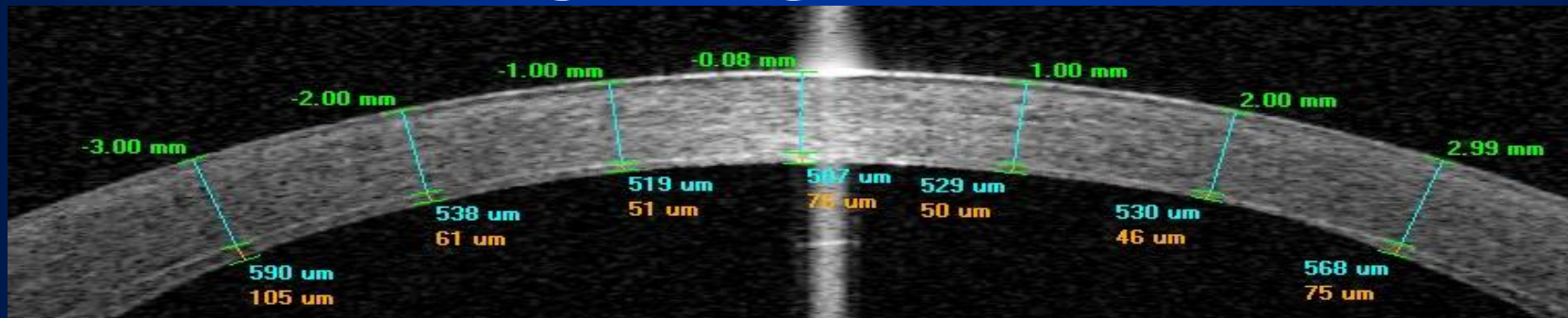


(2008-2010) ECL ↑↑↑

UT-DSAEK vs DMEK(PDEK)



UT-DSAEK



DMEK??? → (PDEK) UT-DSAEK

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

UT-DSAEK vs DMEK

=

PD-DALK vs DALK

WHY

20/20 VA Potential

Does NOT Equal

20/20 BSCVA ????

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

IS THE INTERFACE

THE TRUE

PROBLEM

???

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

DMEK Graft Variables

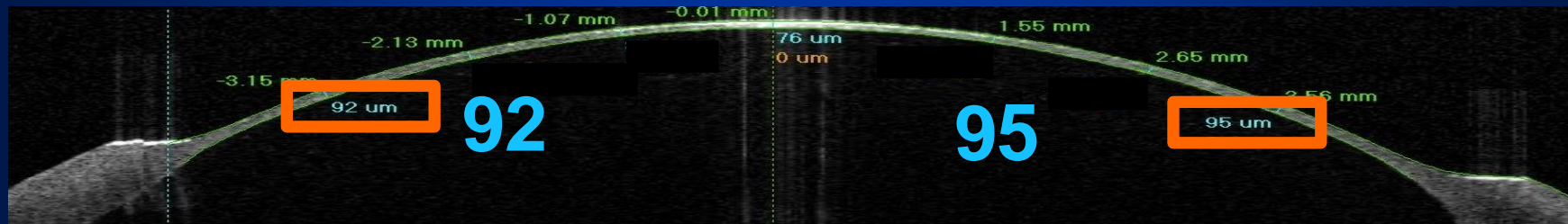
- ECC
- Diameter
- ???

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

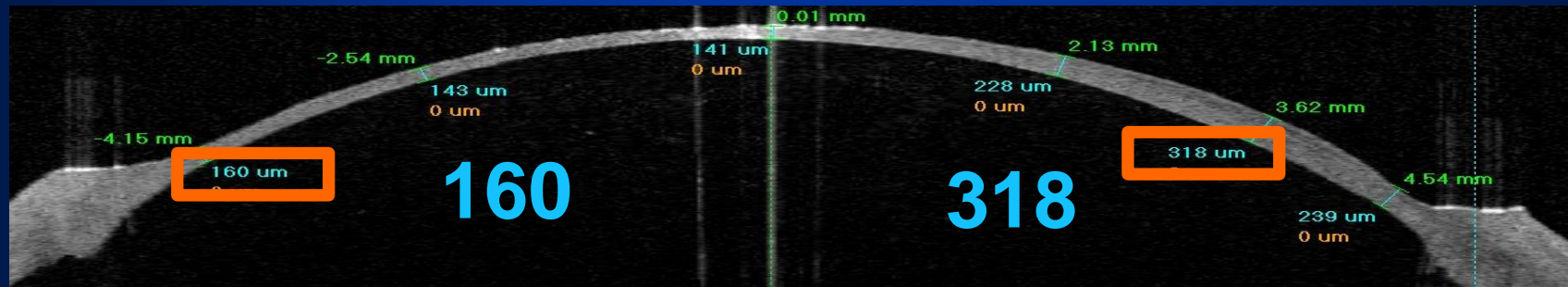
DS(A)EK Graft Variables

- ECC
- Diameter
- STROMA (Thickness, Regularity, Orientation) → QUALITY CONTROL

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

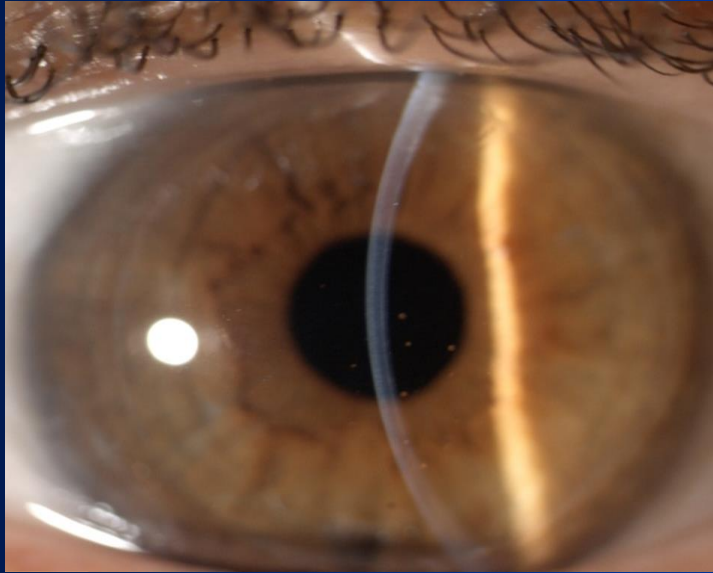


Thin, Regular Shape = No HOA



Thick, Irregular Shape = HOA

UT-DSAEK/DSAEK

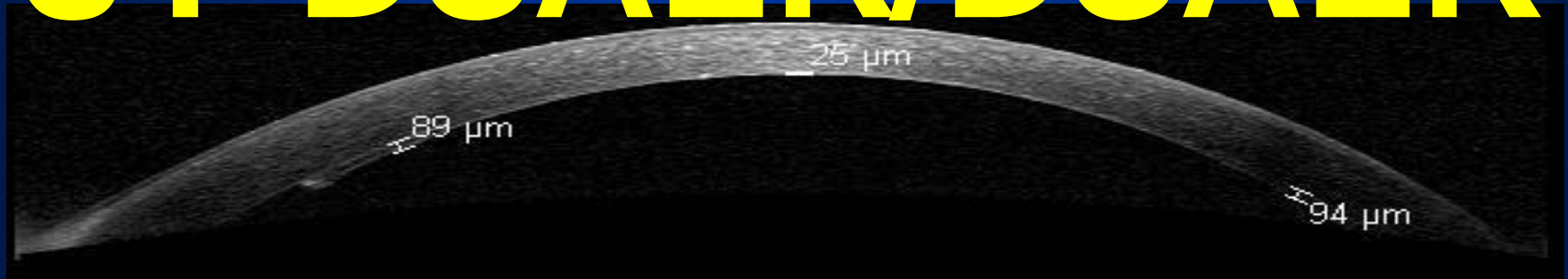


OD UT-DSAEK
VA = 20/17 (1.2)

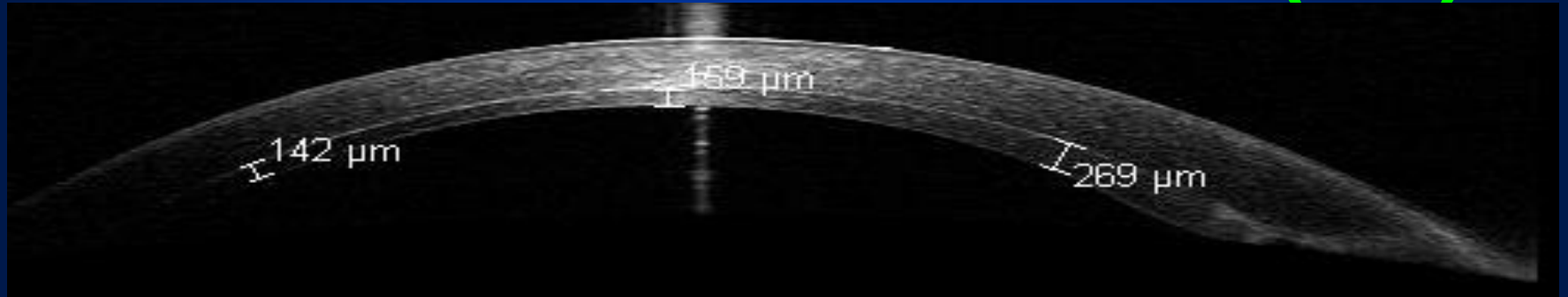


OS DSAEK
VA = 20/30 (0.6)

UT-DSAEK/DSAEK



OD UT-DSAEK VA = 20/17 (1.2)



OS DSAEK VA = 20/30 (0.6)

ISSUES (UT) DSAEK vs DMEK

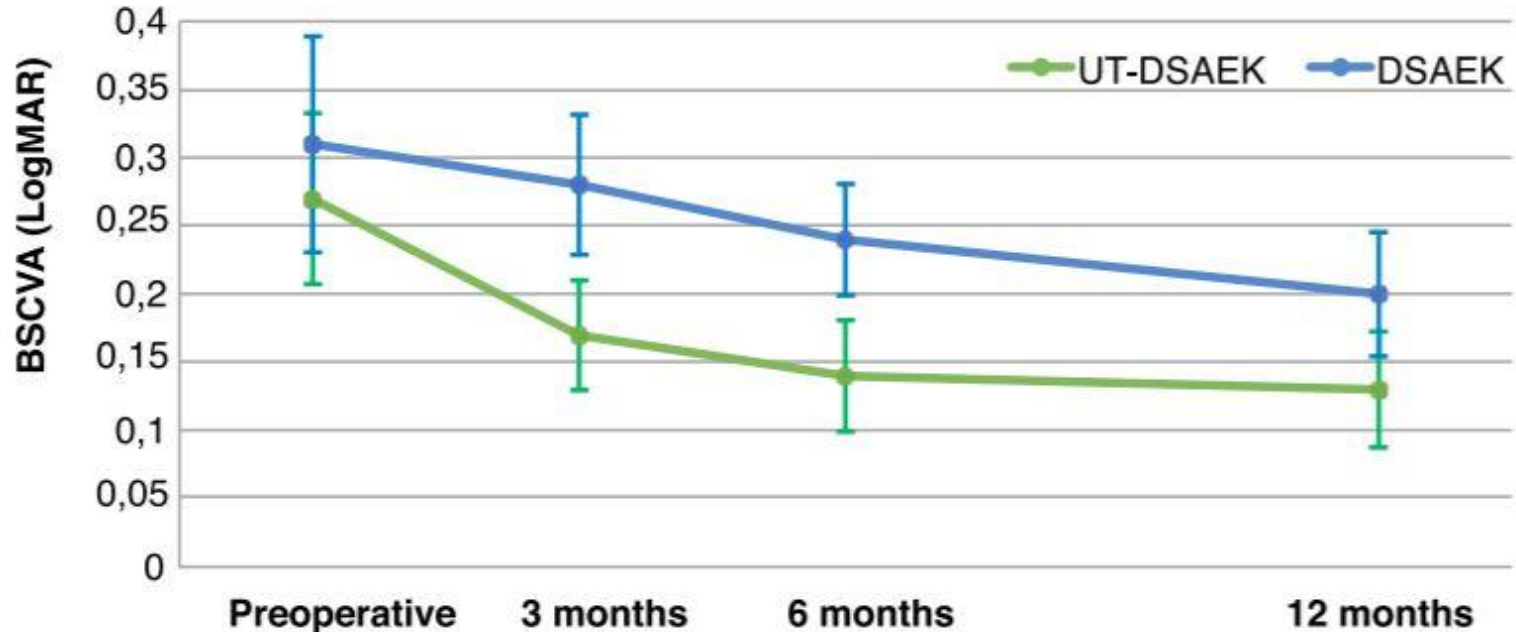
A Randomized Multicenter Clinical Trial of Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) versus DSAEK

Mor M. Dickman, MD,¹ Pieter J. Kruit, MD, PhD,² Lies Remeijer, MD, PhD,³ Jeroen van Rooij, MD,³ Allegonda Van der Lelij, MD, PhD,⁴ Robert H.J. Wijdh, MD,⁵ Frank J.H.M. van den Biggelaar, PhD,¹ Tos T.J.M. Berendschot, PhD,¹ Rudy M.M.A. Nuijts, MD, PhD¹

Ophthalmology 2016;■:1–9 © 2016 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology

ISSUES (UT) DSAEK vs DMEK

DSAEK vs UT-DSAEK in NL



DMEK

Eyes with BSCVA \geq 20/20

$\geq 20/20 = 61\%$ to 20%

$< 20/20 = 39\%$ to 80%

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

Patient-Related

57,9%

Graft-Related

30,5%

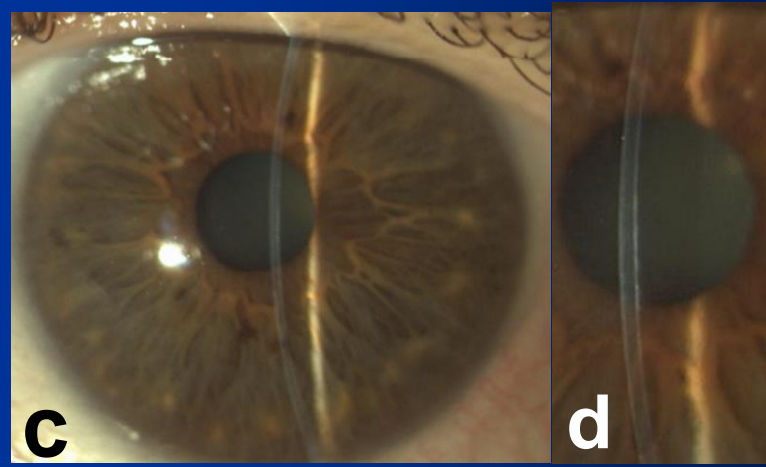
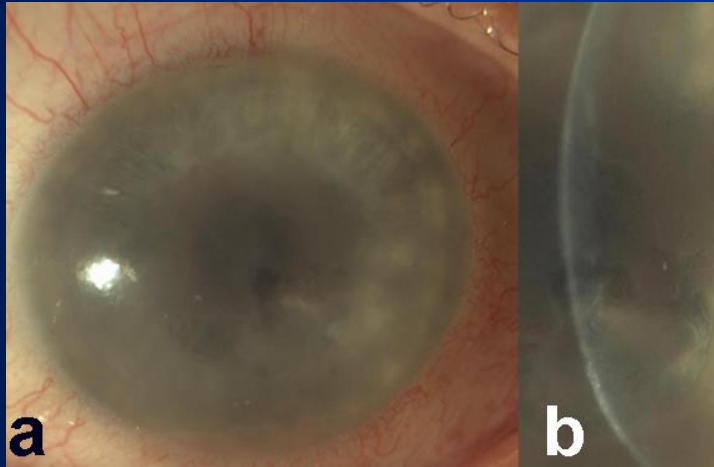
Mixed

11,6%

**DAPENA et al. *Potential Causes of Incomplete Visual Rehabilitation at 6 Months Postoperative After Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty*
Am J Ophthalmol 2013;156:780–788**

DSAEK/UT-DSAEK/DMEK

RECIPIENT CORNEA



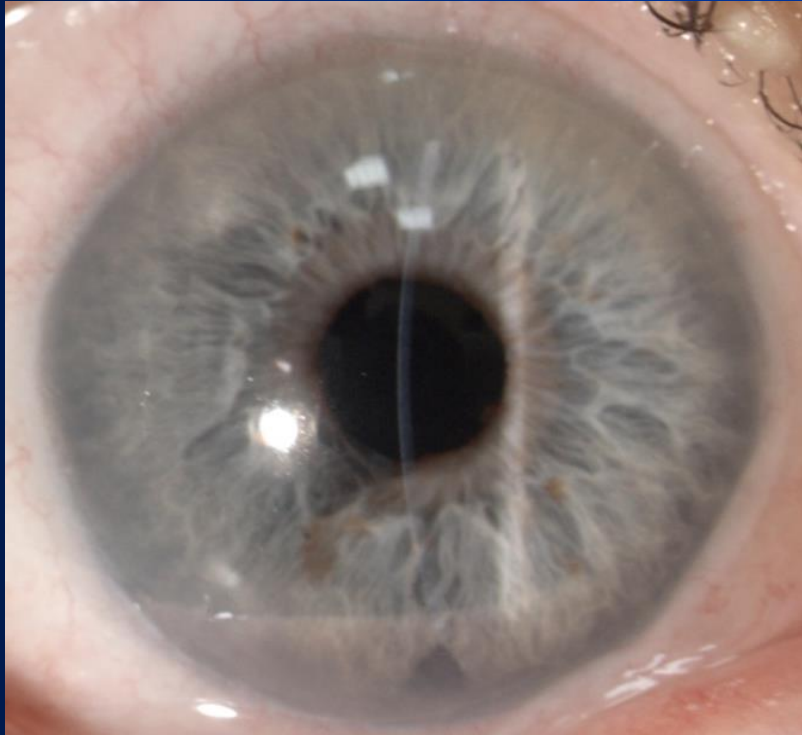
**DIFFERENT PREOPERATIVE
CONDITION !!!**

OUTCOMES

ULTRATHIN DSAEK

VS

DMEK

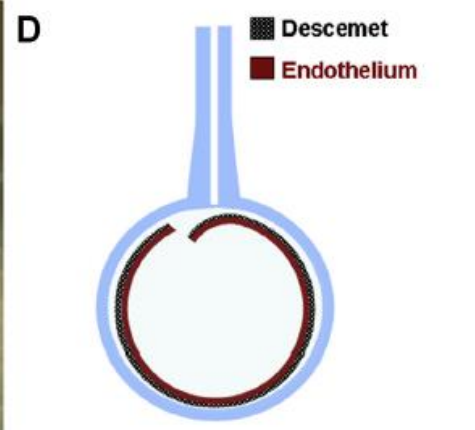
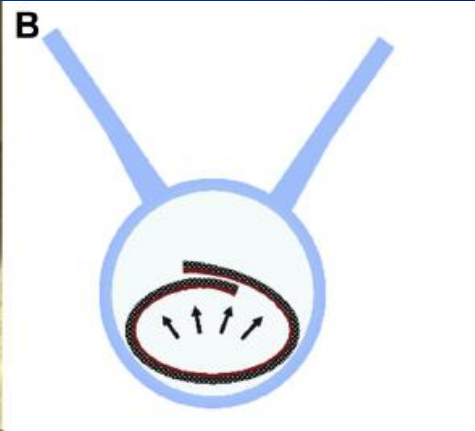
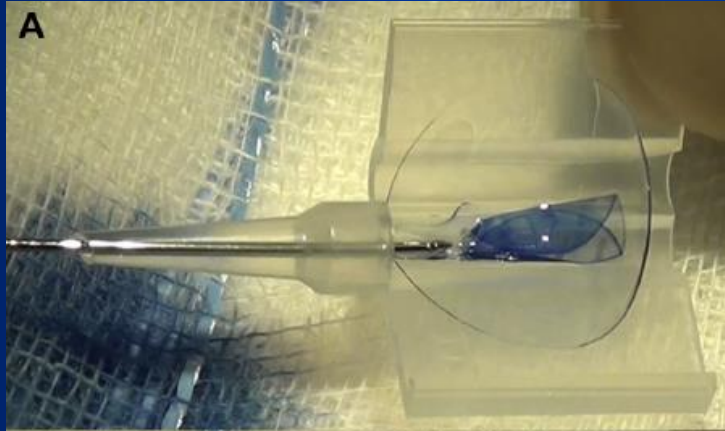


OD: 4y after DMEK
VA: 20/20



OS: 6y after UT-DSAEK
VA: 20/20

2014



ENDOTHELIMUM-IN DMEK

2016

> [Ophthalmology](#). 2016 Mar;123(3):476-83. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2015.10.050. Epub 2015 Dec 11.

Contact Lens-Assisted Pull-Through Technique for Delivery of Tri-Folded (Endothelium in) DMEK Grafts Minimizes Surgical Time and Cell Loss

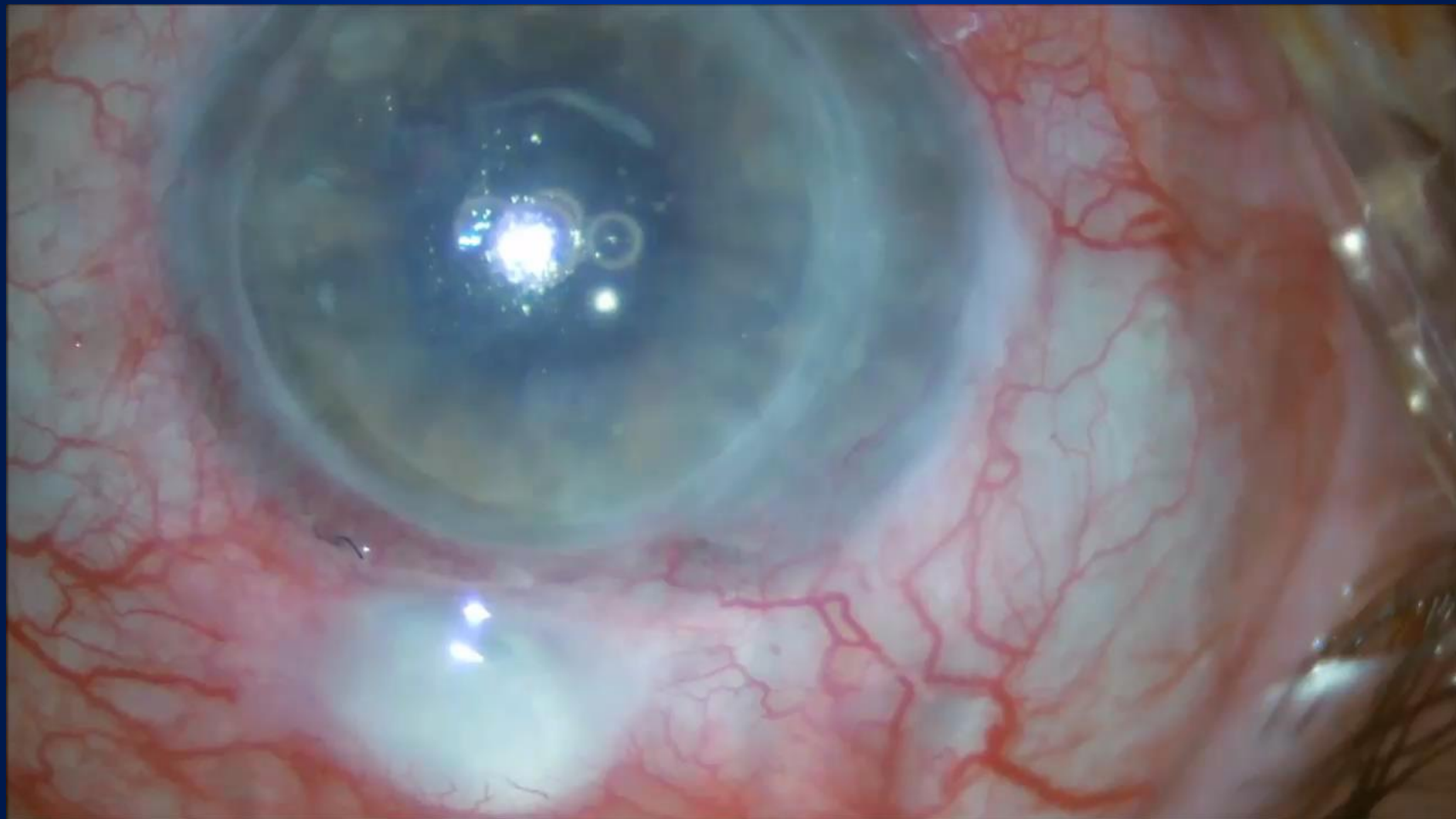
Massimo Busin ¹, Pia Leon ², Vincenzo Scorcia ³, Diego Ponzin ⁴

2020

> [Am J Ophthalmol](#). 2020 Nov;219:121-131. doi: 10.1016/j.ajo.2020.07.004. Epub 2020 Jul 11.

Three-Year Outcomes of Tri-Folded Endothelium-In Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty With Pull-Through Technique

Angeli Christy Yu ¹, James Myerscough ², Rossella Spina ¹, Fiorella Fusco ³, Sergiu Socea ⁴, Luca Furiosi ¹, Luigi De Rosa ⁵, Cristina Bovone ¹, Massimo Busin ⁶



IS DMEK SUPERIOR?

2017



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OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ophthalmic Technology Assessment

Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty: Safety and Outcomes

A Report by the American Academy of Ophthalmology

Conclusions: The evidence reviewed supports DMEK as a safe and effective treatment for endothelial failure. With respect to visual recovery time, visual outcomes, and rejection rates, **DMEK seems to be superior to DSEK** and to induce less refractive error with similar surgical risks and EC loss compared with DSEK. The rate of air injection and repeat keratoplasty were similar in DMEK and DSEK after the learning curve for DMEK. *Ophthalmology* 2017;■:1–16 © 2017 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology

IS DMEK SUPERIOR?

2017



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Ophthalmic Technology Assessment

Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty: Safety and Outcomes

A Report by the American Academy of Ophthalmology

**DID NOT COMPARE DMEK
WITH UT-DSAEK!**

IDEAL COMPARATIVE TRIAL

- Prospective, Randomized
- Well-powered
 - \uparrow Statistical Power \downarrow Magnitude of Difference \rightarrow $\uparrow\uparrow$ Sample Size
- Equal Baseline Characteristics
- Same Interventions for each group
- No Patient Drop-out (Attrition)

COMPARATIVE STUDIES ARE ROBUST ???

	Prospective	Ff-up (mo)	Triple Procedure	DSAEK CGT (um)	N / Diagnosis	Preop BCVA
Hamzaoglu	X	6	≠	<i>nr</i>	=	≠
Heinzelmann	X	≠	≠	<i>nr</i>	≠	≠
Tourtas	X	6	≠	~150	≠	=
Droutsas	X	12	=	140	=	=
Phillips	X	6	=	141	=	≠
Rudolph	X	6.5	≠	<i>nr</i>	≠	<i>nr</i>

nr – not reported

DMEK vs DSAEK

DSAEK Is Tried and Tested
but Has Also Evolved
(UT-DSAEK !!!)

DMEK vs UT-DSAEK

2020



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY®



Commentary

The Ongoing Debate: Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty Versus Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty

Massimo Busin, MD - *Forlì, Italy, and Ferrara, Italy*
Angeli Christy Yu, MD - *Forlì, Italy*

DMEK vs UT-DSAEK

Descemet Endothelial Thickness Comparison Trial

A Randomized Trial Comparing Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty with Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty

Winston Chamberlain, MD, PhD,¹ Charles C. Lin, MD,² Jameson Clover,⁴ Stephen D. McLeod, MD,⁵ Travis C. Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer, MD^{3,5}

NL TRIAL

DETECT

Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty versus Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty

A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial

Suryan L. Dunker, MD,¹ Mor M. Dickman, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Robert P.L. Wisse, MD, PhD,³ Siamak Nobacht, MD,⁴ Robert H.J. Wijdh, MD,⁵ Marjolijn C. Bartels, MD, PhD,⁶ Mei L. Tang, MD,⁷ Frank J.H.M. van den Biggelaar, PhD,¹ Pieter J. Kruit, MD, PhD,⁸ Rudy M.M.A. Nuijts, MD, PhD^{1,2}

Descemet Endothelial Thickness Comparison Trial

A Randomized Trial Comparing Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty with Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty

Winston Chamberlain, MD, PhD,¹ Charles C. Lin, MD,² Ariana Austin, MS,³ Nicholas Schubach,¹ Jameson Clover,⁴ Stephen D. McLeod, MD,⁵ Travis C. Porco, PhD, MPH,^{3,6} Thomas M. Lietman, MD,^{3,5,6} Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer, MD^{3,5}

Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty versus Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty

A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial

Stacyan L. Dunker, MD,¹ Mor M. Dickman, MD, PhD,^{1,2} Robert P.L. Wisse, MD, PhD,³ Siamak Nobacht, MD,⁴ Robert H.J. Wijdh, MD,⁵ Marjolijn C. Bartels, MD, PhD,⁶ Mei L. Tang, MD,⁷ Frank J.H.M. van den Biggelaar, PhD,¹ Pieter J. Kruijt, MD, PhD,⁸ Rudy M.M.A. Nuijts, MD, PhD^{1,2}

	DETECT	NL Trial
Indication	50 (96% Fuchs)	54 (100% Fuchs)
Triple Procedure	72% DMEK vs 68% UT-DSAEK	0%
Stat. Power	80% 6 letters ETDRS	90% 10 letters ETDRS
VA	DMEK > UT-DSAEK	DMEK = UT-DSAEK
ECD	DMEK = UT-DSAEK (NP)	
Complications	DMEK = UT-DSAEK(?)	DMEK > UT-DSAEK(?)

Adverse Events	DETECT		NL Trial	
	UT-DSAEK	DMEK	UT-DSAEK	DMEK
Glaucoma			4	5
Medical	2	2	-	-
Surgical	1	1	-	-
Graft Displacement	1	0	0	0
Graft Failure	1	1	1	4*
Post. Synechiae	0	1	0	0
Re-bubble	1	6	1	7*
Retinal tear	0	1	0	0
Others	3	4	0	1
Total	9	16	6	17 in 15 eyes
	P=0.31[#] (NP)		P=0.01 (NP)	

* of which 2 occurred in the same eye

χ^2 p value is **significant** ($p < .05$) if based on total AE: 9 in UT-DSAEK vs 16 in DMEK (some AE may have occurred in the same eye)

Corneal Higher-Order Aberrations in Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty versus Ultrathin DSAEK in the Descemet Endothelial Thickness Comparison Trial

Effect of Unilateral Endothelial Keratoplasty on Vision-Related Quality-of-Life Outcomes in the Descemet Endothelial Thickness Comparison Trial (DETECT)
A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial

Quality of vision and vision-related quality of life after Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty: a randomized clinical trial

Suryan L. Dunker,¹ Mor M. Dickman,¹ Robert P.L. Wisse,² Siamak Nobacht,³ Robert H.J. Wijdh,⁴ Marjolijn C. Bartels,⁵ N.E. Mei-Lie Tang,⁶ Frank J.H.M. vanden Biggelaar,¹ Pieter J. Kruit,⁷ Bjorn Winkens⁸ and Rudy M.M.A. Nuijts^{1,9}

	DETECT*	NL Trial*
Total Combined HOA	DMEK = UT-DSAEK	
Contrast Sensitivity, Straylight	Not tested	DMEK = UT-DSAEK
Vision Related QOL	DMEK = UT-DSAEK	

* Both studies were not powered to detect differences in any of these parameters

Descemet Endothelial Thickness Comparison Trial: Two-year Results from a Randomized Trial Comparing Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty to Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty

[Jennifer Rose-Nussbaumer](#) • [Charles C. Lin](#) • [Ariana Austin](#) • ... [Beth Ann Benetz](#) • [Jonathan H. Lass](#) • [Winston Chamberlain](#)  • [Show all authors](#)

Published: December 23, 2020 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ophtha.2020.12.021>

At 24 months post-operatively, our study **suggests** that DMEK provides superior visual outcomes to UT-DSAEK in patients with isolated endothelial dysfunction when performed by experienced surgeons. BSCVA outcomes were similar to 12 months (which had 100% follow-up) but could reflect a type 1 error due to loss to follow-up of 4 eyes (8%) at 24 months. A **larger** multi-center randomized clinical trial is warranted to further clarify differences in visual acuity, graft survival, re-bubble rates, graft rejection, and ECL.

**There is NO Compelling
(Long-Term) Evidence
that DMEK > (UT-)DSAEK
*Esp. for Complex Eyes**



Ophthalmology @AAOjournal · Sep 9, 2020



Commentary: The Ongoing Debate: Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty Versus Ultrathin Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty ow.ly/ohRx50B3S4d #ophthalmology

“Ultimately, both DMEK and ultrathin DSAEK represent valuable tools in the surgical armamentarium of any corneal specialist.”

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THANK YOU !!!

