DMEK Revolution

Recently, I won a bet against my dear friend Dr. Mark J. Mannis. I told him that it would be hard, but I would get a Milton Nascimento’s record that he does not have in his vast collection of Brazilian music. And I got it! Long history short, my prize was an autographed copy of this amazing book called “Corneal Transplant: A history in profile”, edited by Mark J. Mannis and Avi A. Mannis. Just fantastic! I recommend it to everyone interested in the history of ophthalmology. But, dear Mark, I must say that you will have to update the next edition, because there is a revolution in march, regarding endothelial replacement and it is known as Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratopasty (DMEK). And we will certainly make a new bet!

It took almost half century from the pioneering work of Charles Tilet (1956) until 1998 when Gerrit Melles described the first technique for posterior lamellar keratoplasty. Since then, improvements in techniques and surgical instruments made by names such as Gerrit Melles, Mark Terry, Frank and Marianne Price, Mark Gorovoy, Rajesh Fogla, Isabel Dapena, Vasilis Liarakos, Lammy Baydoun, Mike Straiko and many others has brought this technique to another level. A real revolution!

Vision Pan-America, The Pan-American Journal of Ophthalmology has adopted a recent tradition of publishing one special issue per year, focusing on a specific topic. In 2013 was Glaucoma, coordinated by Dr. James C. Tsai. In 2014, was Cornea and External Disease, coordinated by Dr. Allan Slomovic and Dr. Alejandro Lichtinger. Both issues were accepted with great appreciation by our readers.

This year, we choose a specific surgical technique due to its huge impact on the way we will treat and manage corneal endothelial diseases for now on.

We have invited Dr. Rajesh Fogla and Dr. Gerrit Melles to contribute to this special issue. Both responded kindly and promptly to our invitation. What a privilege and honor of having two great personalities on the field of corneal transplant writing exceptional reviews on DMEK.

The first review by Dr. Rajesh Fogla, from India, is dedicated to the donor preparation. Dr. Fogla is well known for his exceptional surgical skills and for providing clever and inexpensive surgical solutions to be used in any circumstance, anywhere. Not to mention for his videos in YouTube and his availability for helping friends around the world on starting on this technique.

The second review on “No touch DMEK surgery technique” is coordinated by Dr. Gerrit Melles, the man who revolutionized endothelial keratoplasty and instigated all others to look for intelligent solutions for corneal diseases.

To finish up with style, Dr. Pedro Bertino et al and Dr. Nicolas Cesário et al presented two cases report on the management of endothelial disease with superficial scar and with associated phacoemulsification.

“You say you want a revolution? Well, you know, we all want to change the world!”

Hope you have a good and fruitful reading!

Best regards!

Paulo

REFERENCES