

Corneal flap advances in Lasik

Essay

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List of abbreviations

ACS	Automated Corneal Shaper.
ArF	Argon Fluoride.
ASA	Advanced Surface Ablation
BCVA	Best Corrected Visual Acuity
BSS	Balanced Saline Solution
BMP	Bone Morphogenic Proteins
CB	Carriazo-Barraquer.
CHOAs	Corneal Higher Order Aberrations
cpd	Cycle Per Degree
DLK	Diffuse Lamellar Keratitis
EGF	Epithelial Growth Factor
eV	Electron Volt.
FLEx	Femtosecond Lenticular Extraction

FS laser	Femtosecond Laser.
GAPP	Good Acuity Plus Photosensitivity
IL	Interlukin
KrF	Krypton Fluoride.
LCA	Low Contrast Acuity.
LASEK	Laser Sub Epithelial Keratomelieusis
LASIK	LAser in Situ Keratomelieusis
MCAF	Monocyte Chemotactic and Activating Factor
MRSE	Manifest Refraction Spherical Equivalent
ND: YAG	Neodymium- Yttrium Aluminum-Garnet
ND: YLF	Neodymium: Yttrium Lithium Fluoride
OBL	Opaque Bubble Layer
PDGF	Platelet Dervid Growth Factor
PRK	Photorefractive Keratectomy
PTK	Phototherapeutic keratectomy

Rpm	Revolutions per minute
RST	Residual Stromal Thickness
SBK	Sub-Bowman Keratomileusis
SD	Standard Deviation.
SE	Spherical Equivalent
SEMs	Scanning Electron Micrographs
SKBM	Summit Krumeich-Barraquer Microkeratome
TLS	Transient light sensitivity
TNF	Tumor Necrosis Factor
UCVA	Uncorrected Visual Acuity
V _s	Versus

List of figures

Figure	page
Figure 1: Anatomy of the cornea	7
Figure 2: The four step of Lasik	18
Figure 3: Summit Krumeich-Barraquer	48
Figure 4: Nidek MK2000 keratome system	50
Figure 5: Amadeus microkeratome	51
Figure 6: Amadeus suction ring	51
Figure 7: Moria M2 microkeratome	53
Figure 8: The Hansatome suction ring assembly	56
Figure 9: The geared outer track of the Hansatome suction ring	56
Figure 10: The smooth outer track of the Carriazo-Barraquer suction ring	56
Figure 11: The Zyoptix XP microkeratome	57

Figure 12: The individual components of the Zyoptix XP microkeratome	58
Figure 13: Moria LSK-1 disposable. Note the pre-engaged plastic suction ring and head	60
Figure 14: The improved overall design of the Amadeus II handpiece	62
Figure 15: Visijet hydrokeratome.	65
Figure 16: Row of cavitation bubbles	67
Figure 17: A resection plane	67
Figure 18: Intralase femtosecond machine	68
Figure 19: (Top) Cross-sectional schematic diagram of laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) flap cut with contiguous laser spot placement for side cut and lamellar (interface) creation. (Bottom) LASIK flap cut using raster pattern (left), centrifugal spiral pattern (center), and centripetal spiral pattern (right).	69
Figure 20: Flap interface created by the iFS	73
Figure 21: The iFS laser make 150-degree side cuts	74

Figure 22: FEMTO LDV.	76
Figure 23: FEMTEC 20/10 Perfect Vision FS.	77
Figure 24: VisuMax FS	79
Figure 25: FLEEx is a single-step procedure	81
Figure 26: SEMs (500x) of corneal beds after making 140- μ m flaps with Amadeus II (left) and IntraLase (right)	90
Figure 27: SEMs (200x) of corneal beds after making 110- μ m flaps with a Hansatome (left) and IntraLase (right)	90
Figure 28: Corneal flaps created with the Femtec femtosecond laser system	109
Figure 29: Corneal flap cut with a mechanical microkeratome	110
Figure 30: Bubble escape occurred inferolaterally 3 mm from the flap edge (arrow), leaving an area without dissection.	116

List of tables

Table(1): Flap thickness vs. preoperative pachymetry for Moria M2	53
Table(2): Comparison of microkeratome models	58
Table(3): Advantages and disadvantages of the femto-second laser	70
Table (4): Comparison of different elements of fs laser technology.	79
Table (5): Comparison of Mechanical and IntraLase FS Flap Thickness.	85

Contents

Introduction	1
Aim of the work	4
Anatomy of the cornea	5
Corneal wound healing	10
Lasik technique	15
Complications of lasik	19
Methodes of creating corneal flap	43
Femtosecond vs Mechanical microkeratome	82
Sub-Bowman's Keratomileusis	111
Summary	118
References	121
الملخص العربي	١

Introduction

Laser In situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) is currently the refractive surgery procedure of choice for most patients with low to moderate refractive errors. LASIK has gained this acceptance because of minimal discomfort and rapid visual recovery with good long-term results and stability of refractive effect. (**Leaming, 2004**)

The era of Keratomileusis began in 1966 with **Pureskin**, who demonstrated that refractive changes could be achieved by creating a corneal flap and removing central tissue in a lamellar fashion under the flap. He found that the smaller the diameter of the resected disc, the greater the refractive changes. (**Taravella, 2009**)

Between 1983 and 1988, **Luis Ruiz** and **Rowsey**, proposed the "in situ" technique. The refractive keratectomy was done directly on the cornea, instead of the cap. The microkeratome sliced the central part of the remaining stroma and stroma lenticule was removed. (**Ruiz and Rowsey, 1988**)

In 1993, **Steve Slade** added the refinement of using an automated microkeratome to create the flap. (**Taravella, 2009**)

Introduction

Current microkeratome systems are limited in their ability to create flaps in eyes with different corneal and/or orbital configuration. The flap complications associated with microkeratomes include decentered and free flaps, irregular edges and surfaces (chattering), epithelial abrasion, buttonhole perforation, cap lacerations, and inadequate diameter for a given correction. Most systems are limited to producing a single hinge location and create hinge sizes that are highly variable. For some refractive errors, it is necessary to decenter the flap, but current microkeratomes systems don't allow predictable decentrations.

Most systems produce meniscus flap shapes that are thinner in the centers and thicker towards the periphery, which increases the risk for a buttonhole perforation. Preoperative thin and/or steep corneas can limit the use of most systems because thin and steep corneas create thinner than predicted flap.

Precisely cut corneal flaps are essential for successful Lasik treatments and calculation of ablation profiles. Even with modern mechanical microkeratomes, variation in flap thickness and morphology can be found. Differences in flap thickness can be related to several factors, including the microkeratomes model used. However many complications of Lasik surgery are still related to the flap-cutting process. An alternative way of producing Lasik

Introduction

flaps involves modern lasers that are based on the femtosecond laser technology. **(Holzer et al., 2006)**

There are mechanical and Femtosecond laser microkeratomes. The later is a solid state laser used to create flap using infrared light with wavelength 1053 nm to deliver closely spaced 3µm spots that can be focused to a preset depth to photo disrupt tissue stroma. **(Kezirian and Stonecipher, 2004)**

Intralase (a femtosecond laser microkeratomes) provides the highest degree of precision and uniformity. Intralases micron-level precision creates significantly more predictable and accurate flap dimensions, including, most critically, reproducible flap thickness, within ten micrometer, whereas variability with microkeratomes has been reported up to 40 micrometer. This increased precision preserves variable corneal tissue and improve the predictability of the Lasik treatment. **(Ming, 2006)**

Aim of work

Aim of the work

The aim of this work is to compare between recent trends in making corneal flaps in Lasik and demonstrate which flap is best, regarding the morphology, cut accuracy and histopathology.

○Anatomy of the cornea

Refractive surgical procedures work by altering corneal anatomy to create a new shape; flatter in the center with a steeper periphery. The incision severs a graded amount of corneal stroma, allowing the biomechanical forces to produce a gaping of incisions and repositioning of the uncut corneal tissues. **(Warring et al., 1998)**

Wound healing holds this new corneal contour, but the wounds are not as strong as the original uncut cornea. If this surgery was carried out on the homogenous material of known physical properties, such as steel or plastic, the surgeon could accurately predict the surgical outcome. However, the cornea has a non-homogenous structure that undergoes not only acute changes in the shape immediately after it is incised, but also slower changes in shape because of its viscoelastic properties and the process of wound healing. **(Warring et al., 1998)**

One can consider the cornea fancifully as a sandwich dipped in nutritious soup. Two surface layers, the epithelium and the endothelium, contain a central filling, the stroma. All three layers receive nourishment and oxygen from tears, aqueous humor, limbic vessels. More precisely the structure of cornea fits that of many other tissues. The surface epithelium and endothelium rests on basement membrane (The epithelial basement membrane and