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Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty: graft rejection, failure and survival

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STELLINGEN

behorend bij het proefschrift

Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty: graft rejection, failure, and survival.

1. The 10- year and 9-year outcomes of the first Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) patient are exceptional. - *this thesis*
2. Endothelial graft failure after DMEK predominantly affects eyes with comorbidities or complications. - *this thesis*
3. Corneal changes are visible with Scheimpflug imaging or Specular Microscopy long before graft rejection becomes clinically evident. - *this thesis*
4. Transplantation of multiple Quarter-DMEK grafts from the same donor is technically feasible with acceptable results but needs stricter tissue quality requirements and adjustments of logistics. - *this thesis*
5. Despite the milder appearance of immunologic reactions after DMEK, intense ('aggressive') topical steroidal treatment is required in most DMEK cases.
6. Automated recognition and artificial intelligence may detect DMEK complications before changes become visible for the human eye.
7. To combat worldwide endothelial tissue shortage, 'Descemet stripping only' and Quarter-DMEK will become standard treatment options for eyes with central Fuchs endothelial dystrophy.
8. Novel therapeutic approaches like the injection of cultured corneal endothelial cells will challenge DMEK and continue the momentum of innovations in the treatment of corneal endothelial disease during the past 20 years.
9. It is wise to follow the advice of Erasmus from Rotterdam (1466-1536) that to prevent disease is better than curing it.
10. The principle to treat only as much as necessary and as little as possible is especially true for corneal transplantation.
11. Sometimes it needs a virus instead of an idea or innovation to reconsider our deeds.
12. We should follow the advice of Roald Dahl (1916-1990), who wrote, that above all, we need to watch the whole world around us with glittering eyes, and if we believe in magic, we will then see the greatest secrets, hidden in the most unlikely places.