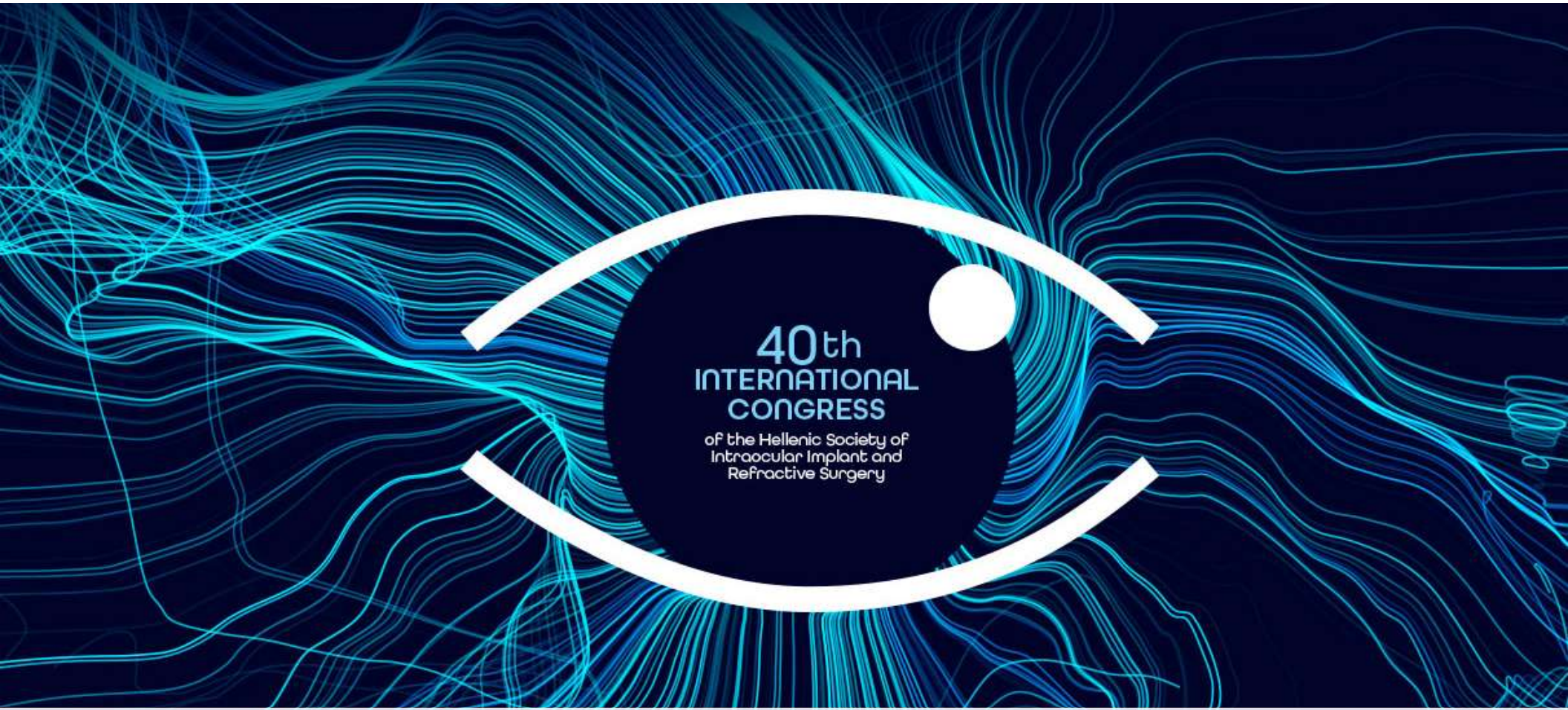


Targeting the Feeder Vessel: A Simple Approach to Herpetic Corneal Neovascularization

Pappas A., Pavlaki M., Androudi S.

University Eye Clinic, General University Hospital of Larissa, Larissa, Greece

No conflict of interest to declare

Purpose

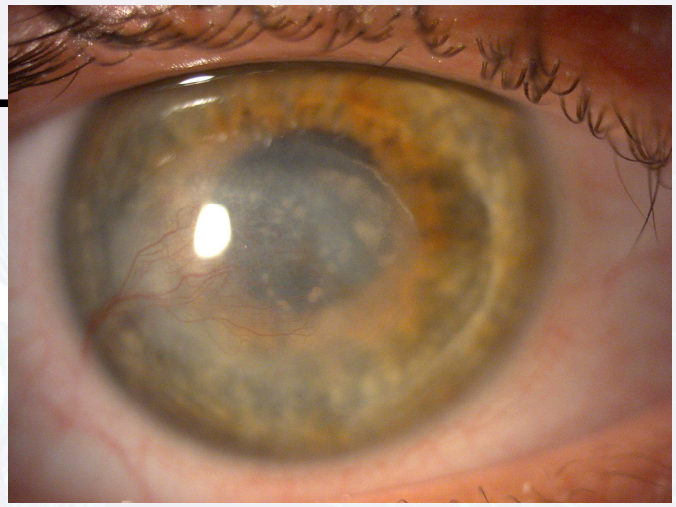
- Corneal neovascularization is a common and potentially vision-threatening complication of herpetic keratitis, often leading to corneal opacity. The purpose of this study is to present the clinical effectiveness of feeder vessel cauterization at the limbal level.

Method

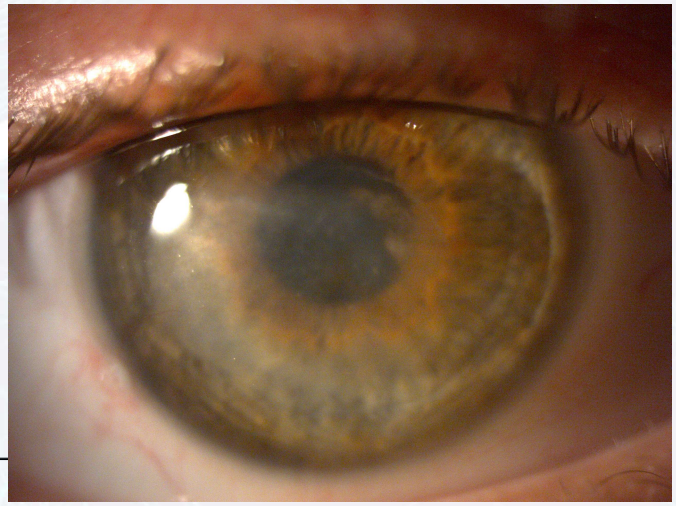
- We report two cases of patients with a history of herpetic corneal disease who developed persistent superficial and deep corneal neovascularization associated with corneal opacity and visual impairment. Despite medical management, neovascularization remained active. Feeder vessel cauterization was performed at the limbus under topical anesthesia, targeting the identifiable supplying vessel.

Case 1

- 20 yo male
- Hx: Herpetic corneal ulceration OD 1 year prior to presentation
- Visual Acuity OD at presentation: HM (1m)
- Corneal neovascularization with endothelial infiltrates
- Final Visual acuity OD (after cauterization): CF



Before feeder vessel cauterization

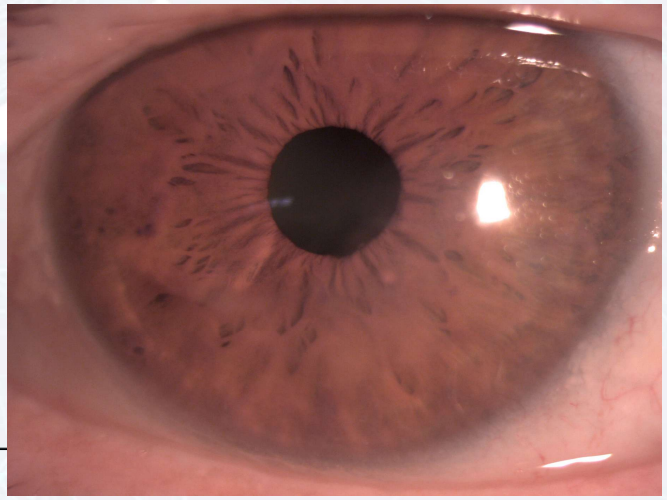


1 week after feeder vessel cauterization

Case 2

- 65 yo male
- Hx: Herpetic corneal ulceration OS 2 months prior to presentation
- Visual Acuity OS at presentation: 20/200
- Corneal neovascularization
- Final Visual Acuity OS (after cauterization): 20/32

Before feeder vessel cauterization



2 weeks after feeder vessel cauterization

Results

- In both cases, significant regression of corneal neovascularization was observed within the first days following the procedure, accompanied by notable improvement in corneal clarity. No intraoperative or postoperative complications were recorded, and no reactivation of herpetic disease occurred during the follow-up period.

Conclusions

- Feeder vessel cauterization at the limbus represents a simple, fast, targeted, and effective therapeutic approach for selected cases of herpetic corneal neovascularization, offering a valuable alternative when conservative treatment proves insufficient.

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