A New Technique for Pterygium Excision

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I read with interest the paper by Gulkilik et al. [1] describing a new technique for pterygium excision with air-assisted dissection.

In this regard, I applied the above-mentioned technique in 6 patients (6 eyes) with pterygium in my clinical practice, under topical anesthesia. All cases were free of previous surgeries and informed consent was obtained. Air dissection was successfully performed in 2 eyes (33.3%), providing a clear corneal surface without extra scraping or polishing. In 4 eyes

(66.7%) air dissection was not completely successful, and scraping with a crescent blade had to be performed. After removing the pterygium head, conjunctival autograft was carried out without sutures using fibrin glue (Beriplast P, ZLB Behring, Marburg, Germany). No major complications occurred and no recurrences were observed in a maximum follow-up of 3 months (minimum of 31 days).

The success rate (33.3%) was considerably lower than the authors' one (75%) [1], and I attribute this to my learning curve.

Despite this, the technique seems to be safe and provides promising perspectives.

Finally we congratulate the authors [1] on their innovative contribution to pterygium surgery and hope to hear of other surgeons' results.

Reference

- 1 Gulkilik G, Kocabora S, Taskapili M, Ozsutcu M: A new technique for pterygium excision: air-assisted dissection. *Ophthalmologica* 2006;220:307–310.