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Vital Dyes in Vitreoretinal Surgery

Chromovitrectomy

Volume Editor

Carsten H. Meyer  Bonn

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Contents

VII List of Contributors
XI Preface
    Meyer, C.H. (Bonn)

1 A Vitrectomy Is Done, When the Vitreous Is Gone! A Tribute to Prof. Peter Kroll
    Meyer, C.H. (Bonn)

5 To See the Invisible: The Quest of Imaging Vitreous
    Sebag, J. (Los Angeles, Calif.)

29 Historical Aspects and Evolution of the Application of
    Vital Dyes in Vitreoretinal Surgery and Chromovitrectomy
    Rodrigues, E.B.; Penha, F.M.; Furlani, B. (Sao Paulo); Meyer, C.H. (Bonn);
    Maia, M.; Farah, M.E. (Sao Paulo)

35 Three Simple Approaches to Visualize the Transparent Vitreous
    Cortex during Vitreoretinal Surgery

43 Safety Parameters for Indocyanine Green in Vitreoretinal Surgery
    Grisanti, S. (Tübingen, Luebeck); Altvater, A. (Tübingen); Peters, S. (Tübingen, Luebeck)

69 Toxicity of Indocyanine Green in Vitreoretinal Surgery
    Gandorfer, A.; Haritoglou, C.; Kampik, A. (Munich)

82 Biomechanical Changes of the Internal Limiting Membrane
    after Indocyanine Green Staining
    Wollensak, G. (Berlin)

91 Current Concepts of Trypan Blue in Chromovitrectomy
    Costa, E.F.; Rodrigues, E.B. (Sao Paulo)
101 Trityl Dyes Patent Blue V and Brilliant Blue G – Clinical Relevance and in vitro Analysis of the Function of the Outer Blood-Retinal Barrier
Mennel, S. (Marburg); Meyer, C.H. (Bonn); Schmidt, J.C. (Marburg);
Kaempf, S.; Thumann, G. (Aachen)

115 Brilliant Blue in Vitreoretinal Surgery
Enaida, H.; Ishibashi, T. (Fukuoka)

126 Vital Staining and Retinal Detachment Surgery
Jackson, T.L. (London)

141 An Experimental Approach towards Novel Dyes for Intraocular Surgery
Haritoglou, C.; Schütttauf, F.; Gandorfer, A.; Thaler, S. (Munich/Tübingen)

153 Experimental Evaluation of Microplasmin – An Alternative to Vital Dyes
Gandorfer, A. (Munich)

160 Author Index
161 Subject Index
List of Contributors

Andreas Altvater
University Eye Hospital
Center for Ophthalmology
Eberhard-Karls-University of Tübingen
Schleichstrasse 12–15
DE–72076 Tübingen (Germany)

Juliana Bottós
Federal University of Sao Paulo
Vision Institute
Department of Ophthalmology
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Jack Chofflet
92, Chemin St. Christophe
FR-06130 Grasse (France)

Elaine F. Costa
Federal University of Sao Paulo
Vision Institute,
Department of Ophthalmology
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Hirsoshi Enaida
Department of Ophthalmology
Clinical Research Institute
National Hospital Organization
Kyushu Medical Center
1-8-1 Jigyohama, Chuo-ku
Fukuoka, 801-8563 (Japan)

Michel E. Farah
Federal University of Sao Paulo
Vision Institute
Department of Ophthalmology
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Bruno Furlani
Federal University of Sao Paulo
Vision Institute
Department of Ophthalmology
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Arnd Gandorfer
Department of Ophthalmology
Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Mathildenstrasse 8
DE–80336 Munich (Germany)
Salvatore Grisanti  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein  
Campus Luebeck  
Ratzeburger Allee 160  
DE–23538 Luebeck (Germany)

Christos Haritoglou  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University  
Mathildenstrasse 8  
DE–80336 Munich (Germany)

Steffen Hörle  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Philipps-University Marburg  
Robert-Koch-Strasse 4  
DE–35037 Marburg (Germany)

Tatsuro Ishibashi, MD  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Graduate School of Medical Sciences  
Kyushu University  
3–1–1 Maidashi, Higashi-ku  
Fukuoka, 812–8582 (Japan)

Timothy L. Jackson  
Department of Ophthalmology  
King’s College Hospital  
London SE5 9RS (UK)

Stefanie Kaempf  
IZKF ‘Biomat’  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen  
Pauwelsstrasse 30  
52074 Aachen (Germany)

Anselm Kampik  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University  
Mathildenstrasse 8  
DE–80336 Munich (Germany)

Veronica Lima  
Federal University of Sao Paulo  
Vision Institute  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Mauricio Maia  
Federal University of Sao Paulo  
Vision Institute  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Stefan Mennel  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Philipps-University Marburg  
Robert-Koch-Strasse 4  
DE–35037 Marburg (Germany)

Carsten H. Meyer  
Department of Ophthalmology  
University of Bonn  
Ernst-Abbe-Strasse 2  
DE–53127 Bonn (Germany)

Fernando M. Penha  
Federal University of Sao Paulo  
Vision Institute  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Swaantje Peters  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein  
Campus Luebeck  
Ratzeburger Allee 160  
DE–23538 Luebeck (Germany)
Preface

Indocyanine green (ICG) has a high affinity to the internal limiting membrane (ILM) of the retina. However, its potential toxicity to the retina and unclear side effects opened a wide discussion on the benefit and complications of any vital dye in vitreoretinal surgery (chromovitrectomy). This book highlights the major clinical and experimental results with currently used novel vital dyes in modern vitreoretinal surgery. The first three chapters describe the transparent structure of the vitreous body and summarize historical considerations to visualize its structure by optical coherence tomography, dye injections or autologous cells during surgery for diagnostic purposes. The following three chapters describe the advantages and disadvantages of ICG during vitreoretinal surgery and experimental applications. Alternative approaches by recently approved vital dyes such as trypan blue, patent blue and brilliant blue are evaluated in the subsequent three chapters. The last three chapters give an outlook on novel vital dyes, which are currently under evaluation, as well as alternative enzymatic approaches to remove the vitreous from the retinal surface.

Chromovitrectomy is a novel approach to visualize the vitreous or retinal surface during vitreoretinal surgery. Numerous vital dyes have been applied in experimental settings with promising or devastating results. The widely used ICG has made the surgical maneuver of ILM peeling tremendously safer and efficient. However, its ‘off-label’ application and ongoing reports on possible side effects make the search for a safer approach necessary. Several alternative vital dyes have already been approved by the industry for vitreoretinal application, while additional dyes are still under evaluation. The authors would like to thank the international research community, governmental funding and private organizations as well as our industrial partners,
who have supported this ongoing research over the past decade. The future will show
which dye allows the safest approach with possibly no side effects, a high specific
affinity for the ILM or other vitreoretinal tissues and the best visual outcome for our
patients.

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Prof. Dr. med. Carsten H. Meyer,
Bonn