

ENDOTHELIAL KERATOPLASTY ULTRA-THIN DSEK

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

I have the following financial interests or relationships to disclose:

- Alcon Laboratories, Inc.
- Allergan, Inc.
- Bausch + Lomb, Inc.
- Katena
- Kala Pharmaceuticals
- Mati Pharmaceuticals
- Mimetogen
- Omeros
- PRN
- TearLab
- TearScience
- Senju
- Shire

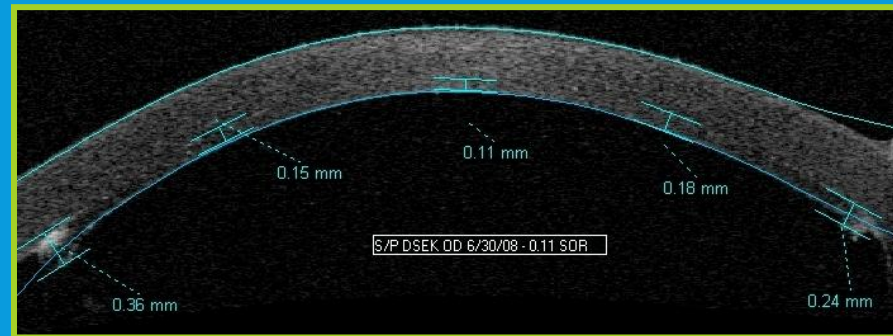
CORNEAL THICKNESS IN DSEK

- Historically there has been a surgeon bias toward thicker tissue
 - Eye banks instructed to cut tissue 180 – 200 microns
 - Thicker tissue is easier to handle
 - Can use Forceps for insertion
- We noted that certain DSEK patients were achieving 20/20 vision and others were not
 - Suspected tissue thickness played a role



DSEK THICKNESS STUDY

- Evaluation of post-op DSEK graft thickness
 - measured by AS-OCT
 - 12 months post op
 - 33 eyes
- Results
 - Thin EK eyes ($\leq 131 \mu\text{m}$)
 - 100% $\geq 20/25$, 71% achieved 20/20
 - Thick EK eyes ($> 131 \mu\text{m}$)
 - 50% $\geq 20/25$, 19% achieved 20/20 ($p < 0.01$)



FOLLOW UP DSEK THICKNESS STUDY

“Thin” <120µm

- Mean 100µm
- Range 60-110µm

“Thick” ≥120µm

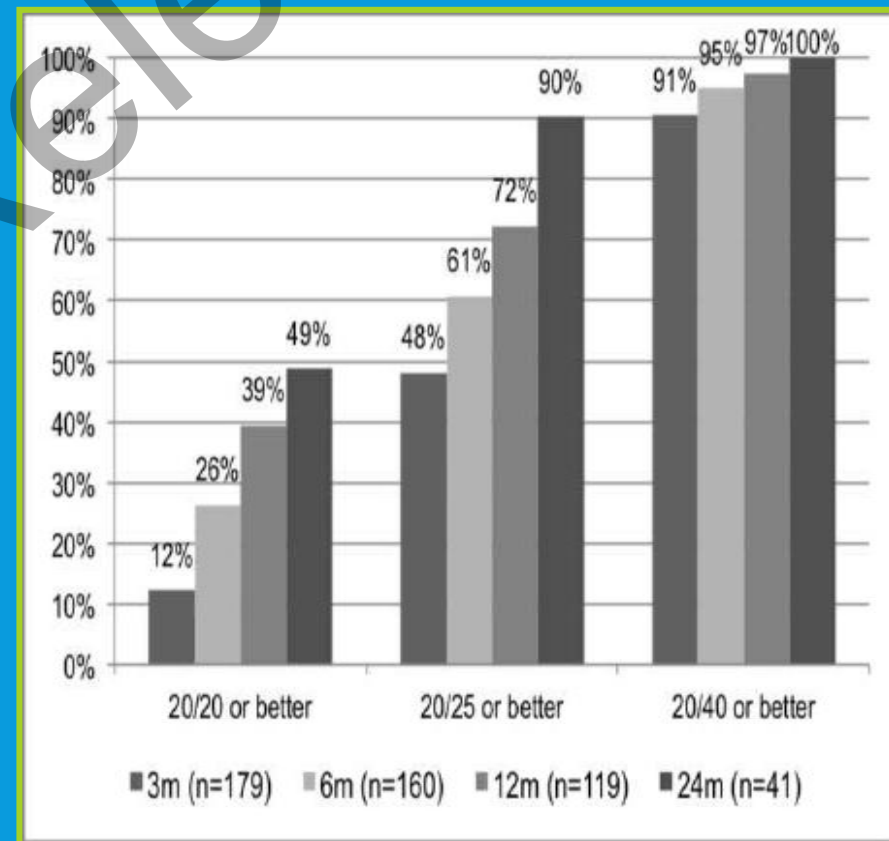
- Mean 140µm
- Range 120-180µm

	Thin EK (n=33)	Thick EK (n=34)	Total eyes (n=67)	P value
LogMAR				
Median	0.10	0.18	0.10	0.008
Mean	0.09	0.17	0.13	
Range	0- 0.3	0- 0.54	0 to .54	
Snellen				
Mean	20/25	20/32	20/29	0.008
Range	20/20-20/40	20/20-20/70	20/20-20/70	
% of eyes achieving 20/20	10 (30%)	8 (24%)	19 (28%)	0.53
% of eyes achieving ≥20/25	27 (82%)	15 (44%)	43 (64%)	0.001
% of eyes achieving ≥20/30	31 (94%)	24 (71%)	55 (83%)	0.02
LogMAR, logarithim of minimum angle of resolution				

DISCUSSION – POST-OP THICKNESS VS. BSCVA

Busin study of “Ultra-Thin” DSAEK (n=285)¹:

- Microkeratome double pass technique
- Mean central graft thickness at 3 month postop: $78.3 \pm 28.9 \mu\text{m}$
- Visual outcomes comparable to Guerra and Price² 1 year DMEK results:
 - 41% achieved $\geq 20/20$
 - 80% achieved $\geq 20/25$



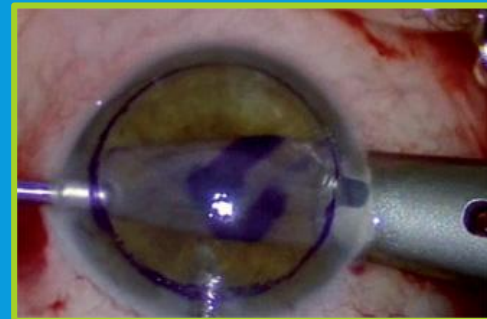
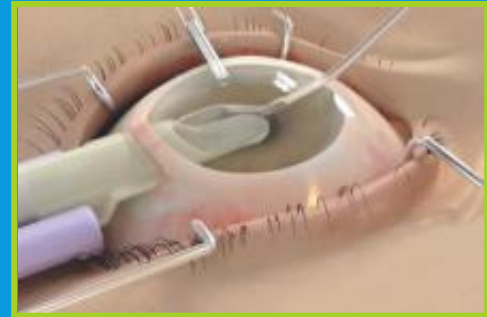
1. Busin M, et al. Ultrathin DSEK with the microkeratome double-pass technique: two-year outcomes. *Ophthalmology*. 2013
2. Guerra FP, Anshu A, Price MO, et al. *Ophthalmology* 2011.

DISADVANTAGES OF ULTRA-THIN DSEK

- Tissue harder to handle with forceps
- Tissue less rigid and harder to unfold within anterior chamber
- Possibly more endothelial cell loss due to tissue handling problems
- Need for an inserter device to assist in manipulating thin EK tissue

DSEK INSERTION DEVICES

- Allows for easy placement of even very thin tissue
- Incision size <4mm
- Examples
 - Tan Endo Guide
 - EndoSaver
 - Busin Glide
- Our present Eye Bank request is for tissue 50-70 microns



ENDOSERTER RESULTS

Endosserter vs. Forceps Study

- Graft detachment rate:
 - 6% in the injector group
 - 28% eyes in the forcep group
- Graft failure:
 - 1% with Endosserter
 - 6.5% with forceps
- Visual outcomes:
 - Endosserter - 74% were $\geq 20/40$ at 6 months
 - Forceps - 72% were $\geq 20/40$ at 6 months
- 6 month post-op endothelial cell loss of
 - Endosserter - 28%
 - Forceps - 44%

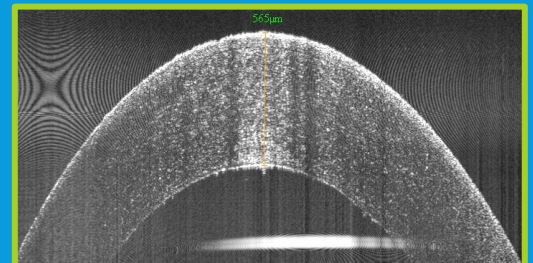
Foster JB, Walter K, et
al. Cornea 2012



KEYS TO ULTRA-THIN DSAEK PREP

MINNESOTA LIONS EYE BANK

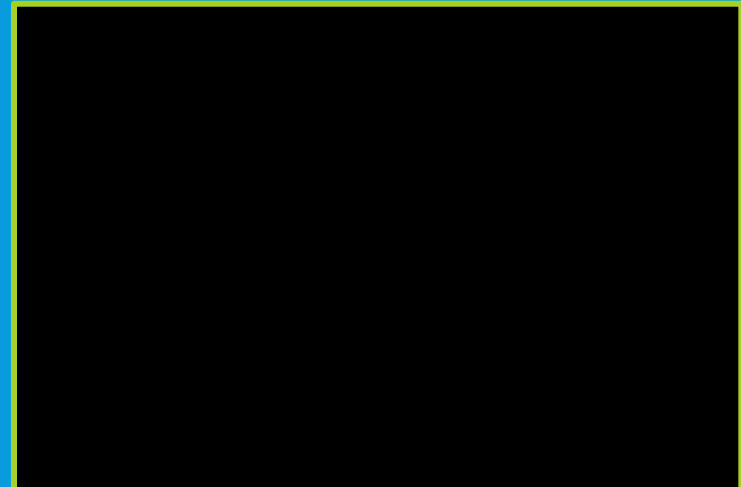
- Choose the correct donor cornea
 - Preferred thickness $\leq 550 \mu\text{m}$
 - Exclude uneven stroma
 - Exclude LASIK surgery history
- Each Technician creates a pachymetry nomogram
 - Specific to individual operator
 - Pachymeter – Spec micrometer, OCT, and US
 - AAC set & microkeratome head (200, 250, 300, 350 μm)
 - Hand pass speed



ULTRA-THIN DSAEK PROCESSING

MINNESOTA LIONS EYE BANK

- Obtain full thickness pachymetry in viewing chamber by specular micrometer and OCT
 - Both have accuracy of $\pm 10 \mu\text{m}$
- Center cornea on Moria artificial anterior chamber (AAC)
- Remove epithelium
- Ultrasound pachymetry immediately prior to microkeratome pass



ULTRA-THIN DSAEK PROCESSING

MINNESOTA LIONS EYE BANK

- Perform single microkeratome pass
- Ultrasound pachymetry immediately after microkeratome pass
- Obtain post-cut pachymetry in viewing chamber by specular micrometer and OCT
 - Thickness stabilizes ~15-30' post-cut



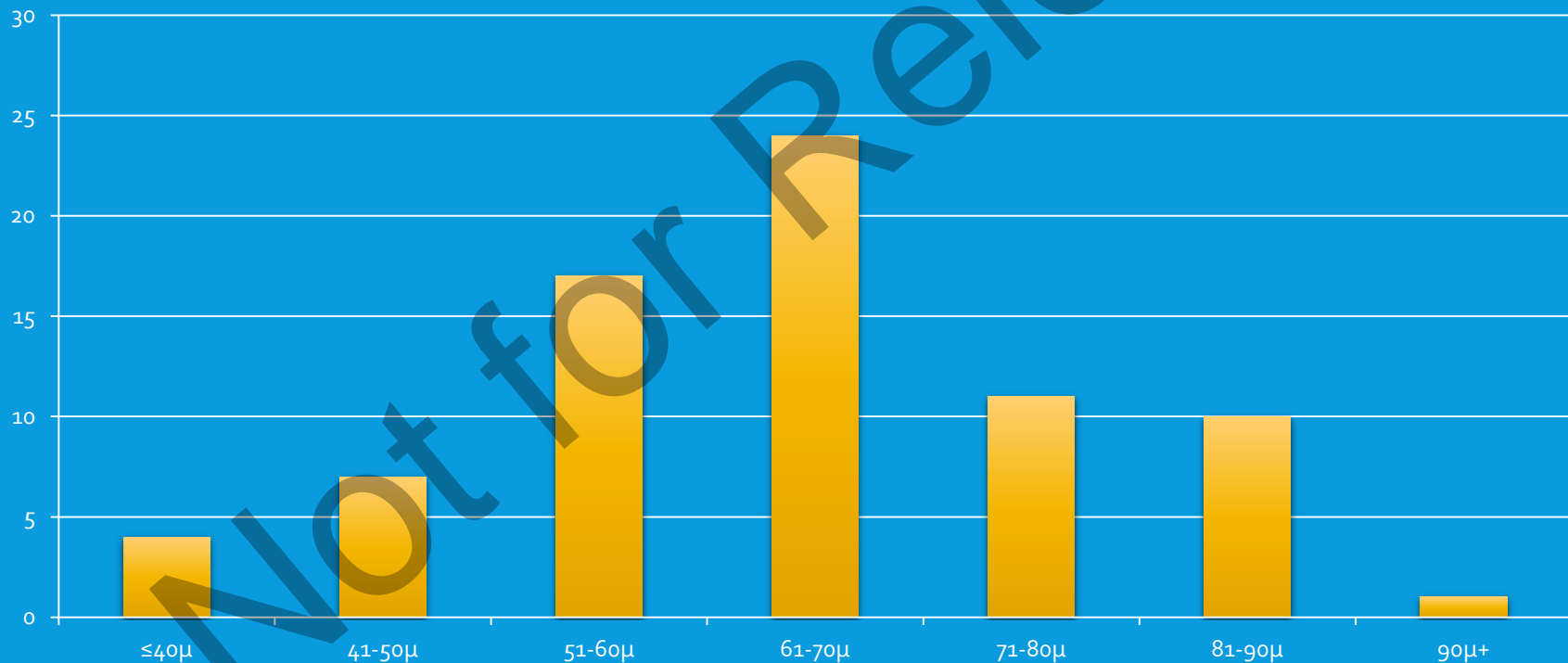
VARIABLES IN ULTRA-THIN DSAEK PREP

Other variables

- Orientation: enter at thickest side to make cuts more uniform
- Hand pressure: harder → deeper cut
- Time on AAC: Generally, longer → thinner
- Amount of epithelium removed: more removed → thinner
- Age of donor: younger corneas stretch, change thickness more easily



DSAEK GRAFT THICKNESS WITH TARGET OF 50-70 MICRONS E. HOLLAND: 4/1/15 THROUGH 3/31/16



Average thickness: 65 μm
57% in target range of 50-70 μm

ULTRA-THIN VS. OTHER DSAEK

MINNESOTA LIONS EYE BANK

4/1/15 THROUGH 3/31/16

UT DSEAK Target 50-70 μ m

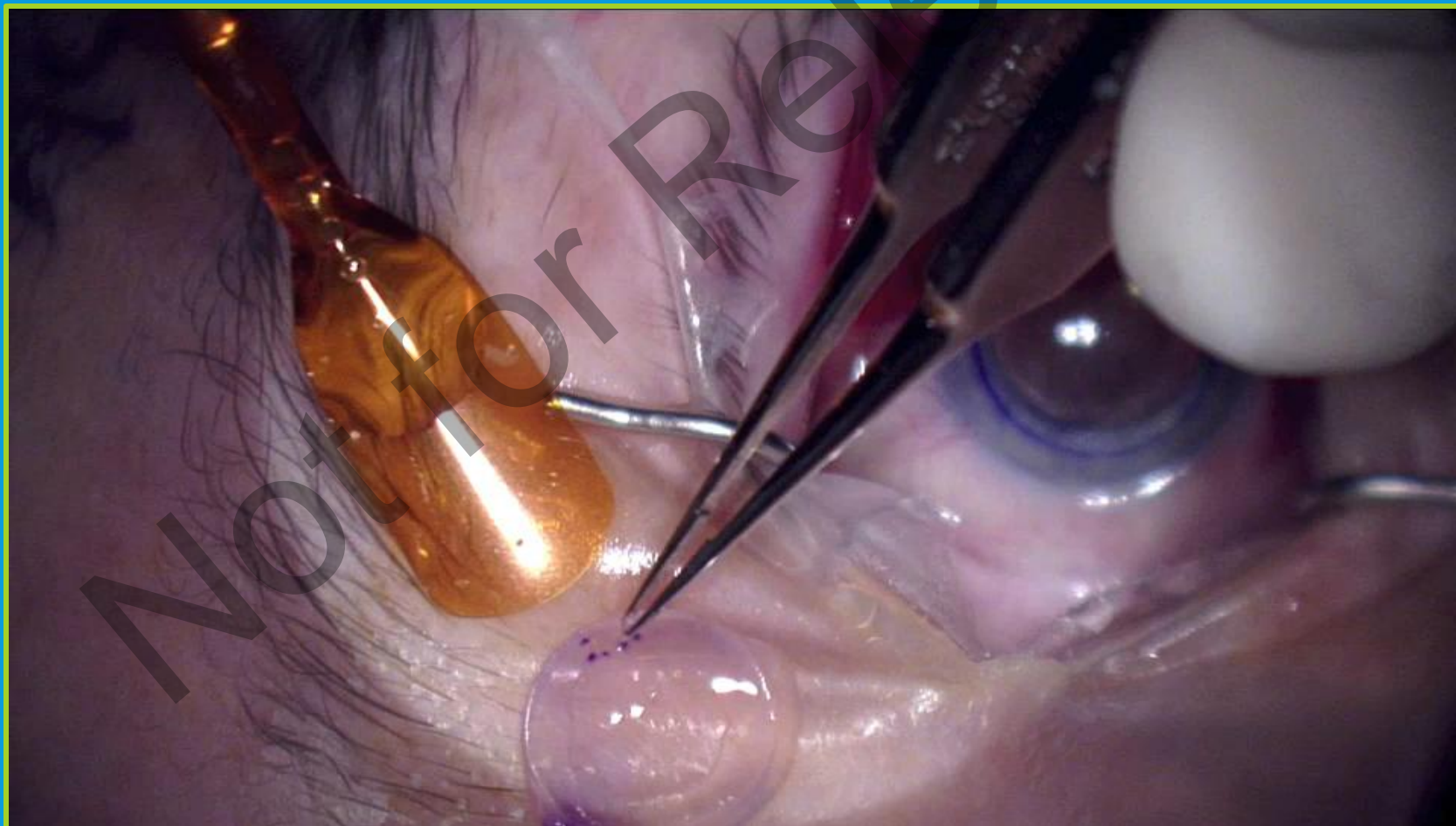
- 74 Grafts
- 7 Corneas damaged during processing
- Loss Rate 8.64%

All Other DSAEK

- 544 Grafts
- 18 Corneas damaged during processing
- Loss Rate 3.2%

UT DSEK THICKNESS = 40 μm

Custom Corneal Tissue Information Form - DSAEK		
Tissue ID#: 16-1714 OS-C DSAEK		
Tissue Processed for:	DSAEK	Graft Thickness (microns): 40
Date Processed:	2016-10-23	Calc Graft Thickness (microns):
Time Processed:	10:14	-----
Origin Eye Bank:	Minnesota Lions Eye Bank	Graft Diameter (mm):
Origin Eye Bank ID:	-----	9
Comments - Post-Cut:		



UT DSEK THICKNESS = 31 μm

Custom Corneal Tissue Information Form - DSAEK		
Tissue ID#: 16-1318 OD-C DSAEK		
Tissue Processed for:	DSAEK	Graft Thickness (microns):
Date Processed:	2016-08-26	31
Time Processed:	09:36	Calc Graft Thickness (microns):
Origin Eye Bank:	Minnesota Lions Eye Bank	-----
Origin Eye Bank ID:	-----	Graft Diameter (mm):
		9



ULTRA-THIN DSEK

Technique has evolved and improved

- Eye Banks can provide Ultra-Thin tissue at a reasonable rate
- Surgical advantages
 - Ease of insertion
 - Predictable surgical time
 - Improved Visual Acuity Outcomes vs. Standard DSEK
 - Less complications than DMEK
 - Tissue easier to handle
 - Detachment rate
 - Endothelial cell loss ?

Disadvantages vs. DMEK

- Slower visual recovery
- Visual Acuity?

