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Long-term Outcomes of Pediatric Penetrating Keratoplasty for Herpes Simplex Virus Keratitis

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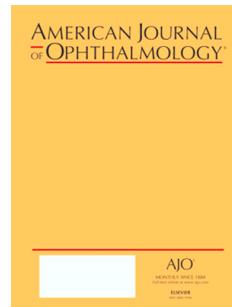
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**Abstract**

**Purpose:** To analyze the characteristics and long-term outcomes of patients that underwent pediatric penetrating keratoplasty (PPK) for herpes simplex virus (HSV) keratitis.

**Design:** Retrospective, interventional, consecutive case series.

**Methods:** Observational report of outcomes and findings. Nine patients with history of HSV keratitis that underwent PPK and were followed in a single institution. Difference between the median preoperative and final best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was assessed and the outcomes are reported.

**Results:** We included 9 eyes, median age at the moment of the PPK was 14 years. The median initial BCVA was 20/400 (range 20/60 to hand motion) and final was 20/50 (range 20/30 to 20/400) ( $p<0.05$ ). Follow-up was a median of 94 months. Complications in these patients included: glaucoma (one), graft rejection (one), recurrence of disease (one) and amblyopia (three). No graft failures were present.

**Conclusion:** The long-term outcomes with PPK for HSV keratitis in children provide improvement in BCVA when not compromised by amblyopia.

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