



Letter to Editor for Inaugural Issue Clinics in Surgery

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Letter to Editor

I am currently serving in two capacities. I am a Medical Monitor for Stroma, Inc., a startup company whose goal is the safe and predictable use a special computerized laser to lighten the iris color uniformly by removing the anterior monolayer of pigment from the iris surface. We have performed the basic laboratory and animal studies and limited, segmented treatment of normal human irides and are now involved in the first clinical studies treating the full 360 degrees of the human iris. We are not affecting the posterior pigment layer that is responsible for pigmentary glaucoma. Active iris tracking in X, Y, and the Z meridians, with a very small depth of focus reduces risk(s) to anterior segment structures.

Working with my Fellow from 1988 and 1992, Dr. Gerritt Melles of the Netherlands, we are performing different studies of the procedure known as DMEK (Descemet's membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty). We are studying histologic specimens from pathologic cases and from recipients who have died years following a successful procedure to understand how the eye tolerates the procedure as well as what happen to the transplanted endothelium. In addition, Dr. Melles has developed a new procedure termed hemi-DMEK where one divides a donor corneal stromal/endothelial complex specimen in half and then transplants each half into two different recipients. Using OCT and confocal microscopy and histopathologic specimens, we are assessing the outcomes to determine the potential world-wide application of this technique which would double the number of potential recipients from one donor. We have to date submitted three manuscripts that support these procedures.

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