

Endothelial preservation technique enhances DALK outcomes

SAN FRANCISCO — A deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty technique that preserves the endothelium offers safety and long-term survival rates, a surgeon said here.

Sheraz M. Daya, MD, discussed DALK during Cornea Day, preceding the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

Endothelial keratoplasty is indicated when the endothelium is normal, Dr. Daya said.

“I’ll qualify that,” he said. “You know about the advantages of retaining the endothelium ... It reduces the risk of long-term corneal blindness in recipients of penetrating keratoplasty.”

Advantages of anterior lamellar keratoplasty include retention of the endothelium and a reduced risk of corneal blindness. Disadvantages include poor vision because of corneal opacification, regular and irregular astigmatism and postoperative corneal perforation, Dr. Daya said.

However, DALK is preferable to PK in some cases because of the hazards associated with PK, such as expulsive choroidal hemorrhage, graft rejection and graft failure.

“This is a safer alternative to PK in the long term,” Dr. Daya said. “Outcomes are getting better with newer techniques and improved experience. It’s always a good first option ... I do think it’s an excellent skill for cornea surgeons to acquire.”