

Cornea

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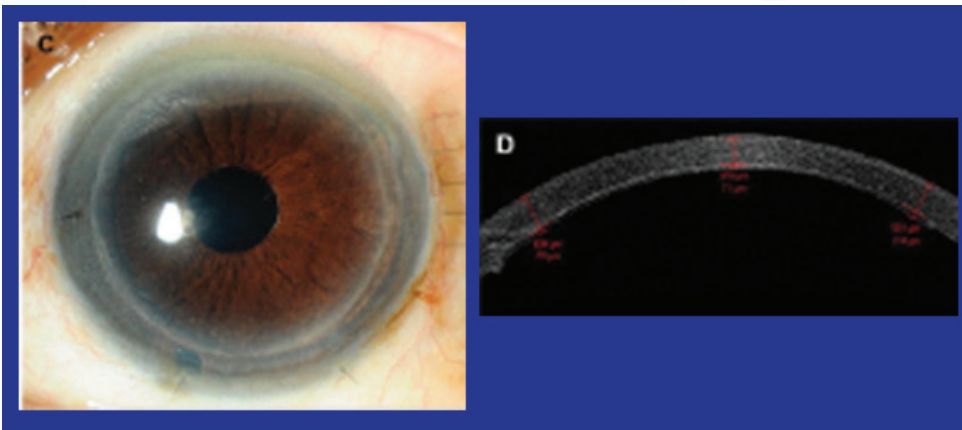
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Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK)

What is DSEK surgery?

Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty and It involves transplantation of the endothelial (inner most) layer of the cornea from a donor eye into the recipient's eye.



The procedure

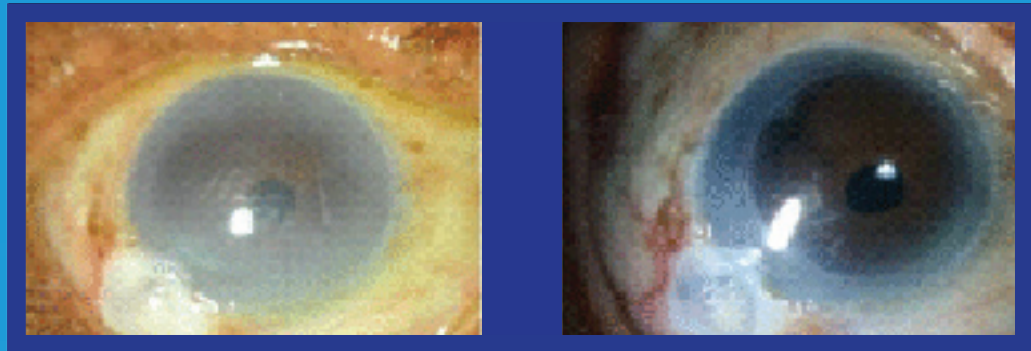
DSEK is an advanced eye surgery. The operation is performed under general or local anaesthesia. The affected endothelial layer of the patient is removed and replaced by the endothelium of the donor cornea. The donor layer is held in place by an air bubble which, with patient lying flat helps in apposition of the donor endothelial layer against the recipient cornea. The air is absorbed and goes away after a few days, leaving the donor endothelial layer stuck in place. Only a few stitches are needed in this surgery.

What are the benefits of this procedure?

Since DSEK involves replacement of one layer only of the cornea, recovery is much faster and very few sutures are required. It is expected that vision can return early. Risk of complications is low and there is less chance of graft rejection.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

Current alternative is penetrating corneal transplant surgery, in which all the layers of the cornea are removed and replaced. The patient's corneal button is removed and donor corneal graft is sutured into position.



Who can have DSEK?

People with corneal endothelial failure (for example, Fuch's corneal dystrophy, bullous keratopathy, pseudophakic bullous keratopathy) can have DSEK.