

# Introduction

## KERATOCONUS AND ECTATIC CORNEAL DISEASES: ARE WE FACING A NEW SUBSPECIALTY?

The International Journal of Keratoconus and Ectatic Diseases is a specialized journal that emerged due to the explosive growth in the understanding of the pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment of such diseases. The relatively high incidence of the disease in the population has stimulated significant developments related to diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. The trend for 'super ectasia specialists' among corneal surgeons is well recognized. For example, there are meetings entirely dedicated to such topic. And a scientific arm of the Pancornea, Pancone (Pan-American Study Group of Keratoconus and Ectatic Diseases) has been recently created with the collaboration of Daniel Scorsetti, MD, PhD; José AP Gomes, MD, PhD and Juan Carlos Abad, MD, PhD.



Interestingly, as in recognized subspecialties in ophthalmology, such as glaucoma, early diagnosis and management of ectatic disease, should prevent vision loss. Thereby, every ophthalmologist should be alert to such condition when examining any young patients. The diagnosis of such diseases is of critical consideration. In this issue, a study from the Rio de Janeiro Corneal Tomography and Biomechanics Study Group (Rio-CTBSG) by Faria-Correia et al evaluated Pentacam (Oculus, Wetzlar, Germany) parameters for the detection of keratoconus.<sup>1</sup> This study provided the accuracy and reference values of multiple parameters for the diagnosis of the disease. These values should be widely used as reference for interpretation of corneal tomographic exams. The parameters were classified as topometric (derived from front surface curvature), elevation, pachymetric and combined. Future studies should involve clinical biomechanical assessment and the integration of such diagnostic technologies. Also, we should focus on the diagnosis of mild forms of the disease, named as 'forme fruste' keratoconus, and even aim for detecting the predisposition for ectasia development and progression.

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## REFERENCE

1. Faria-Correia F Ramos I, Lopes B, Salomão MQ, Luz A, Correa RO, Belin MW, Ambrósio R Jr. Topometric and tomographic indices for the diagnosis of keratoconus. *Int J of Kerat and Ectatic Dis* 2012;1(2):100-06.