At Long Last...

Good news: the US FDA has approved a revised design of the Boston Keratoprosthesis, both types I and II.

This new design includes a change in back plate from PMMA (shown on the left) to titanium (shown on the right), and eliminates the need for a locking ring by incorporating the locking ring function into the back plate itself.

The result is a two-piece design with a PMMA optic and a slitted titanium back plate that is easier to assemble, and with a much lower profile in the anterior chamber. Existing clinical data suggest that this may reduce the rate of retroprosthetic membrane formation.

It will be up to the individual KPro surgeon to choose between PMMA and titanium when filling in the order form. We hope the new design will be ready for marketing in late 2013.

The metallic appearance of sandblasted titanium may be less desirable cosmetically for the patient. Therefore, we are working on a method, not yet FDA approved, to imbue the back plate with a brown or blue hue to improve the postoperative appearance.
The Boston KPro is the most commonly used artificial cornea in the world:
Profiles of Distinguished Boston KPro Surgeons

Peter Zloty, MD
Dr. Peter Zloty is a board certified and fellowship trained ophthalmologist specializing in corneal transplants, refractive surgery, and cataracts. He is a national and international speaker and has authored many articles and book chapters in his field.

Dr. Zloty attended Rensselaer in Troy, New York in an accelerated undergraduate degree program in Biomedicine. He then transferred to Albany Medical College in Albany, New York, earning a BS in 1982 and MD in 1984. After medical school, he interned at Albany Medical Center Hospital. An active duty tour in the US Navy came next, earning him the rank of Lieutenant Commander and a Sea Service Medal. Active duty service was performed stateside in the Newport Naval Hospital Emergency Medicine Department and Brig Medical Service, and at sea he worked as an intensive care physician. Subsequently he returned to Albany for residency in Ophthalmology. He was then hired as a Clinical Instructor, staffing the first year resident’s clinic, and concurrently served as a fellow in Corneal and External Disease, under Michael W. Belin, MD.

While in private practice in Dothan, Alabama, Dr. Zloty has continued to teach externs from the UAB School of Optometry, as well as national and international courses and symposia. He has traveled to Honduras and East Timor on multiple occasions doing medical and surgical humanitarian mission work, and is an instructor at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting for the Boston Keratoprosthesis.

In recent years, Dr. Tauber has devoted his time exclusively to his private practice and clinical research.

Dr. Tauber’s clinical interests focus on immunologic and ocular surface disease. He is a nationally recognized authority in dry eye and meibomian gland disease management, and he co-authored the treatment chapter of the report of the International Meibomitis Workshop sponsored by the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society (TFOS) in 2011.

In private practice in Kansas City, MO, Dr. Tauber maintains an academic approach to his career in ophthalmology. He remains avidly involved in clinical research, and has been a principal investigator in over 80 studies of high-risk corneal transplantation, inflammation and allergic eye diseases, corneal infectious diseases, and various aspects of ocular surface disease. In addition, he has written eight book chapters and over 50 articles for peer-reviewed medical journals. Dr. Tauber has taught a two hour course on advanced treatment of ocular surface disease at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology for the past ten years.

After gaining experience with the Boston Keratoprosthesis during his training, Dr. Tauber brought the technique to the Midwest where he has taught a number of regional corneal surgeons how to perform this surgery and how to manage post-operative care and complications. His experience with the Boston Keratoprosthesis is also notable, having performed over 100 cases to date.

Dr. Tauber and his wife, Judi, have three children - Allyson (23), Jessica (21), and David (19). Allyson has spent the last year doing Boston Keratoprosthesis research at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, marking the first two-generation Dr. Dohlman mentorship. According to Dr. Tauber, this accomplishment makes him more proud than any other.

Joseph Tauber, MD
Dr. Joseph Tauber received his doctorate from Harvard Medical School, and continued his training in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital and in ophthalmology at Tufts-New England Medical Center. He went on to complete two years of Ocular Immunology and Corneal and External Disease fellowship training at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, under Stephen Foster, MD and Claes Dohlman, MD, PhD. Dr. Tauber moved to Kansas City in 1989 where he joined a private practice and became a Clinical Professor at the University of Kansas Department of Ophthalmology.

Kenneth Goins, MD
Dr. Kenneth Goins attended the University of Tennessee and graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Organismal and Systems Biology in 1982. He attended medical school at the University of Kentucky, graduating magna cum laude in 1986. His Ophthalmology residency
was completed in 1990 at the University of Kentucky, followed by a Cornea fellowship at Duke University in 1991.

After a short period of private practice in Lumberton, North Carolina, Dr. Goins became the director of Cornea and External Disease at the University of Chicago from 1992 to 2003. During this time, he achieved the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and was voted the Resident Teacher of the Year in 1994, 1996, and 2001. In 2003, he joined the faculty at the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology. Since 2006, he has been the medical director of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, while being a member of the Accreditation Board within the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA).

Dr. Goins was the first ophthalmologist in Iowa to perform deep lamellar endothelial keratoplasty (DLEK) in 2003, Alpha-Cor artificial cornea in 2004, femtosecond laser assisted keratoplasty in 2007, and Boston Keratoprosthesis in 2007. He achieved the rank of Professor of Ophthalmology and received the Resident Teacher of the Year Award in 2007. Goins has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications, while his research interests include anterior segment imaging, resident outcomes in PRK and LASIK, and alternative keratoplasty techniques. Since November 2010, he has been a member of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO). He married Sheila Marie Taylor in 1994, and has two sons, Kenneth Jr (17) and William (15).

Miguel Angel Lopez, MD

Dr. Miguel Angel Lopez attended the University Autonoma of Santo Domingo, where he gained his basic medical education. Following medical school, he completed a year in general surgery, and a year in ophthalmology at Salvador B. Gautier. Dr. Lopez completed his residency at Elias Santana Hospital, and went on to do a clinical fellowship in corneal and external eye diseases, as well as refractive surgery at Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

Following this fellowship, he returned to the Dominican Republic and started the first cornea department in his country, which included the creation of a cornea fellowship program. The fellowship program he created was at the Elias Santana Hospital, where young doctors from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, and Santo Domingo, were trained and now are leaders in the cornea fields in their respective countries. Dr. Lopez is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Cornea Society, Pan-American Association, and was past-president of the Dominican Society of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Lopez collaborated directly with Dr. Juan Batle in 1993 to reintroduce the use of the Amniotic Membrane. He has performed close to 70 Boston Keratoprosthesis surgeries, using both the old and new models. Most of these cases were chemical burns. In 2009, Dr. Lopez became the first to implant the Telemetric transducer in a human, to monitor intraocular pressure. He often lectures about his experience with the Boston Keratoprosthesis in the Dominican Republic, and has presented at the World Cornea Congress 2010 and ASCRS 2012.

Jaime Etxebarria, MD

Dr. Jaime Etxebarria received his medical training at Basque Country University. He completed his Ophthalmology residency at Cruces Hospital, Bilbao, Spain, and furthered his training in Cornea and Ocular Surface with Dr. Scheffer C. G. Tseng at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Since 2002, Dr. Etxebarria has led the Cornea Department of Cruces Hospital. He performs different kinds of cornea surgery including DALK, DSAEK, DMEK and KPro, having done almost 70 cases of the Boston Keratoprosthesis in the last seven years. He has also given many national and international training courses on the Boston Keratoprosthesis use and postoperative care.

Dr. Etxebarria is presently leading a research group in Cruces Hospital, and the cell biology and histology departments of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of Basque Country University, on limbal stem cell expansion and on the use of various types of blood-derivatives for corneal wound healing. To improve diagnosis of limbal stem cell deficiency, he collaborates with industrial companies on molecular tests and proteomic diagnosis of blepharitis and dry eye.

He is married to Teresa and has two children, Jaime and Lucia. Some of his hobbies are biking, diving, and rowing.


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Cade F, Paschalis EI, Regatieri CV, Vavvas D, Dana R, Dohlman CH. Alkali burn to the eye: protection using TNF-α inhibition. Submitted to *Cornea*

You’re invited… Please join us!

American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting
November 16-19, 2013 New Orleans, LA

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 17

- 9:00 am – 11:15 am
  
  Course Title: Surgery for Severe Corneal and Ocular Surface Disease
  Course Director: Ali R. Djalilian, MD
  Associate Instructors: Gunther Grabner, MD, Edward J. Holland, MD, Scheffer C. G. Tseng, MD, PhD, James Chodosh, MD, MPH, Ahmad Kheirkhah, MD, Maria S. Cortina, MD, Victor L. Perez, MD
  Course Number: 104  |  Room: 214

- 10:15 am – 12:30 pm
  
  Topic: Cornea, External Disease
  Course Title: The Boston Keratoprosthesis: Case-Based Presentations Highlighting the Essentials for Beginning and Experienced Surgeons
  Course Director: Anthony J. Aldave, MD
  Associate Instructors: Esen K. Akpek, MD, James V. Aquavella, MD, Michael W. Belin, MD, James Chodosh, MD, MPH, Kathryn A. Colby, MD, PhD, Claes H. Dohlman, MD, PhD, Sadeer B. Hannush, MD
  Course Number: 151  |  Room: 209

Monday, November 18

- 10:15 am – 12:30 pm
  
  Topic: Cornea, External Disease
  Course Title: Extreme Cornea: Diagnostic and Management Dilemmas in Your Practice
  Course Director: Ula Jurkunas, MD
  Associate Instructors: Kathryn A. Colby, MD, PhD, James Chodosh, MD, MPH, Roberto Pineda II, MD, Deborah S. Jacobs, MD, Samir A. Melki, MD, PhD
  Course Number: 335  |  Room: 346-347

KPro Events

Boston KPro Users Breakfast
Monday, November 18
7:00 am – 8:30 am
Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans
Ascot/Newberry Room

For more information:
Contact mary_moar@meei.harvard.edu

28th Bienniel Cornea Conference
October 18-19
The Starr Center
185 Cambridge Street, Boston MA

This premier anterior segment conference explores current clinical and laboratory research aimed at generating new treatments for the numerous disease entities that afflict the front part of the eye.

For more information:
Contact cornea_conf@meei.harvard.edu

To register:
Visit www.schepens.harvard.edu/registration/cornea-conference-links/registration.html
Please let us know if you would like to receive the e-mail version of Boston KPro news or if your mailing address has changed.

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