

## MEETING NEWS COVERAGE

## Early approach to DALK for refractory corneal infection yields good results

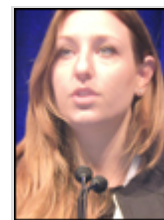
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SAN DIEGO — A precocious, or early, approach to deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty prevented recurrence in cases of corneal infection that responded poorly to medical treatment, according to a study presented here.

Because DALK is a safe procedure with good long-term graft survival, has a low rate of rejection and has a very low risk of secondary complication in *Acanthamoeba* or fungal infection, precocious DALK should be considered in cases that are poorly responsive to medical treatment, **Enrica Sarnicola, MD**, said at the World Cornea Congress.

“Of course, you need a DALK surgeon with a low [PK] conversion rate,” Sarnicola said.

The study included 21 cases of Descemet DALK and six cases of pre-Descemet DALK. There were no recurrences of infection and significant improvement in visual acuity. Average postoperative visual acuity was 7/10, Sarnicola said.



**Enrica  
Sarnicola**

No secondary complications such as cataract or glaucoma were reported.

“We believe that didn’t happen thanks to the surgical timing and the lamellar nature of the keratoplasty,” Sarnicola said.

The deep margin was free of infection in 25 cases; however, two cases of Descemet DALK were not, Sarnicola said. — *by Matt Hasson*

**Disclosure:** Sarnicola reports no relevant financial disclosures.