

# Post-Lasik Epithelial Ingrowth, A Short Review

Behzad Fallahi Motlagh<sup>1</sup>, Afshin Lotfi<sup>1</sup> and Saba Asghari Kaleibar<sup>2\*</sup>

Department of Ophthalmology, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

\*Corresponding author: Saba Asghari Kaleibar, Department of Ophthalmology, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

Received: 📅 February 21, 2023

Published: 📅 March 08, 2023

## Mini Review

The history of contemporary laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) returns to 1985 when Peyman first presented the idea of performing laser ablation in a corneal flap. In 1990, Pallikaris completed the first LASIK procedure in a rabbit model. To date, LASIK remains the most widely performed laser refractive surgery worldwide, with over 1.2 million LASIK surgeries being performed annually in the USA and Europe. Since its introduction, the role of LASIK has extended from the preliminary improvement of simple refractive errors to additional indications, containing the management of postkeratoplasty astigmatism/ametropia, postcataract surgery refractive error and presbyopia.

The long-standing efficiency, expectedness and security of LASIK have been well-known in the literature. A recent systematic review of LASIK in 67 893 eyes described admirable clinical outcomes after new LASIK surgical procedure; 99.5% of cases completed uncorrected distance visual acuity of 6/12 or better and 98.6% of them did spherical equivalent refraction within  $\pm 1.0$  dioptre (D) of target refraction [1,2].

However, the establishment of a line among the flap and the basic corneal stroma may cause flap-related and flap-stromal interface difficulties like displacement of flap, infectious keratitis, diffuse lamellar keratitis and epithelial ingrowth (EI). Post-LASIK epithelial ingrowth (PLEI) is an infrequent problem that is considered by the ingrowth of corneal epithelium at the border among the flap and stromal bed after LASIK, resulting in a variety of clinical manifestations [3,4].

The prevalence of post primary LASIK EI is not high, probably from 0.9% to 3.9%. Though, the risk of EI is meaningfully raised in numerous clinical conditions, particularly when the flap is elevated for retreatment. EI has been infrequently reported after trauma and further types of intervention such as sharp trauma, keratoplasty, cataract operation and pterygium surgery. These clinical expressions are due to the accidental progression of corneal

epithelial cells within the intraocular space, leading to creation of epithelial cells on the exterior of intraocular constructions like ciliary body, iris, lens capsule, posterior cornea and anterior chamber angle [5].

A comprehensive knowledge of these risk factors allows enhanced preoperative patient advising and risk evaluation. Modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors of epithelial ingrowth following LASIK include:

- Modifiable risk factors such as surgical instrumentation, surgical technique during retreatment, conformation of LASIK flap edge, corneal epithelial injury and LASIK flap dislocation
- Non-modifiable risk factors like increased age (weak evidence), type 1 diabetes mellitus, corneal epithelial basement membrane dystrophy or recurrent corneal erosion syndrome, Hyperopic LASIK > myopic LASIK and flap lift for retreatment.

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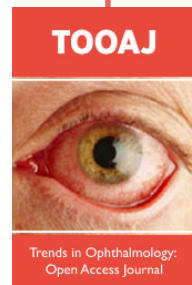
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DOI: [10.32474/TOOAJ.2023.04.000176](https://doi.org/10.32474/TOOAJ.2023.04.000176)



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