

The use of trypan blue for the staining of the ILM. Why not?

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Purpose:

The peeling of the Internal Limiting Membrane (ILM) has become a common step in macular surgery in almost all macular surface surgeries. Indocyanine Green (ICG) still remains the most used dye for facilitating the maneuver. Nevertheless, there are several evidences of toxicity occurred after its use. Since almost two years a new colorant (Trypan Blue) has been introduced in the market to stain epiretinal membranes. Due to a more faint coloration its use has not gained a wide acceptance.

Methods:

All the cases operated in the last 2 years and stained with Trypan Blue are compared with patients treated with ICG in the previous years.

Results:

There is any statistical difference in the results of the two groups both comparing the accuracy of peeled membranes or time elapsed for the procedure. Any complications has been found in cases treated with Trypan Blue compared with two pigment damages in the ICG group.

Conclusion:

Why do we still use an off-label procedure which has shown some toxic effects while having available something conceived for and with no toxic effect demonstrated up to now.

Take-home message:

Both we don't use anything for staining both we use the more reliable tool.

