

Management of Corneal Graft Rejection in High-Risk Patients

An essay

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ABSTRACT

The concept of corneal transplantation was first suggested in 1796 by Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles Darwin, in his influential book Zoonomia. However, theory did not translate into practice until 1835 when an Irish man, Samuel Bigger while he was a prisoner in Egypt successfully transplanted an allogeneic cornea (An allograft is a transplanted organ or tissue from a genetically non-identical member of the same species) into the blind eye of a pet gazelle. In 1838, many years before the invention of anaesthesia, Richard Kissam reported the first corneal transplant in human: this was a procedure in which pig cornea was grafted into a human recipient eye and remained transparent for a couple of weeks. Almost all donor corneas were xenografts (A transplant of organs or tissue from one species to another), until the late 19th century when a successful partial thickness corneal transplant was performed. A significant milestone was the first successful full-thickness human corneal graft reported in 1906 by Zirm. Since then corneal transplantation has grown rapidly with the first eye bank established

Key Word

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