Imaging Post-LASIK Epithelial Ingrowth

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A 45 year old hypertensive female presented after 2 weeks of suffering a foreign body sensation, ocular discomfort and reduced vision in her right eye. She underwent a laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) refractive procedure 9 years previously to correct high myopia and another LASIK correction a year ago. Examination revealed a white stromal infiltration of epithelial cells beneath the corneal flap.

With epithelial ingrowth, a post-LASIK complication, epithelial cells migrate into the corneal stroma via the interface of the corneal flap and proliferate. This causes blurred vision due to induced astigmatism, glare when ingrowth is near the pupil margin, and discomfort caused by corneal surface irregularity. For asymptomatic patients, observation is sufficient. However, for symptomatic patients, treatment options may include laser ablation or surgical elevation of the flap and scraping of the cells. Our patient underwent laser treatment, which completely ablated the lesion.

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Capsule

Sleep loss, brain structure, and learning

Sleep loss is bad for memory formation; however, it affects some of us more than others. Saleti et al. combined memory tests, brain imaging, and sleep EEG recordings to study the interaction between brain structure, sleep loss, and cognitive performance. Individual differences in the anatomy of the human hippocampus explained many of the differences in learning impairment after sleep loss. These structural differences also predicted the subsequent EEG slow-wave activity during recovery sleep and the restoration of learning after sleep. The anatomical structure of the brain may thus represent a biomarker that predicts vulnerability to sleep loss and how easily an individual will recover.

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“Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me
I lift my lamp beside the golden door”

Emma Lazarus (1849-1887), American poet and playwright, best known for “The New Colossus,” a sonnet from which the above lines appear on a bronze plaque in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty placed in 1903. As a result of anti-Semitic violence in Europe, thousands of destitute Ashkenazi Jews emigrated from the Russian Pale of Settlement to New York. Lazarus advocated on behalf of indigent Jewish refugees, and helped establish the Hebrew Technical Institute in New York to provide vocational training to assist destitute Jewish immigrants to become self-supporting