

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 astigma-



tism, 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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