

# Use of autologous blood products to enhance the survival of corneal transplants

<b>Submission date</b> 27/07/2023	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 28/07/2023	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 17/04/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Eye Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

In a corneal transplant all or part of a damaged cornea (the clear outer layer at the front of the eye) is removed and replaced with healthy cornea tissue from the eye of a dead donor. During corneal transplantation its normal for some corneal cells to be lost, which can lead to problems like the transplanted tissue not working properly or being rejected by the body. Inflammation and manipulation of the tissue are significant factors in causing the loss of these cells after surgery. In previous studies, using a substance called plasma rich in growth factors (PRGF), which is a product extracted from the patients' blood, can help protect the cells from this stress and prevent them from dying. The aim of this study is to see if soaking the corneal cells in PRGF for 15 minutes during surgery can reduce the number of cells lost after the procedure. The researchers will be assessing both how well it works and if it's safe to do.

### Who can participate?

Patients over 18 years old undergoing corneal transplantation at Clinica Barraquer de America

### What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly allocated to receive corneal transplants incubated with either activated platelet-rich plasma (aPRP) or PRGF.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Benefits: Lower endothelial cell loss compared to usual corneal transplant procedures and longer transplant survival.

Risks: Same as any usual corneal transplant

### Where is the study run from?

Instituto Barraquer de América (Colombia)

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

June 2019 to March 2023

### Who is funding the study?

Francisco Barraquer-Coll Research Grant, Instituto Barraquer de América (Colombia)

Who is the main contact?  
Carolina Mercado, cxm2533@med.miami.edu

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal investigator

### Contact name

Dr Carolina Mercado

### ORCID ID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1608-3563>

### Contact details

900 nw 17th st  
Miami  
United States of America  
33136  
+57 (0)7868900892  
cxm2533@med.miami.edu

## Additional identifiers

### Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

### Protocol serial number

27921992

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Safety and efficacy of brief intraoperative incubation of full-thickness corneal grafts in autologous plasma products for reducing postoperative endothelial cell loss

### Study objectives

Autologous plasma products (aPRP and PRGF) throughout its antioxidant role may prevent the cytotoxic effects induced by oxidative stress, thus reducing corneal endothelial cell loss after penetrating keratoplasty.

### Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

### Ethics approval(s)

approved 04/06/2021, CEI-ESOIBA (Ac 100 #18a-51, Bogota, -, Colombia; +57 (0)6012187077; mojimenezp.esoiba@barraquer.edu.co), ref: N/A

### Study design

Single-center interventional randomized controlled trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Safety, Efficacy

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Prevention of corneal endothelial cell loss after penetrating keratoplasty

### **Interventions**

Prospective randomized trial of patients undergoing penetrating keratoplasty by three surgeons. Participants who agreed to undergo intervention were randomly assigned by block randomisation to either of the treatment groups (aPRP incubation for 15 minutes intraoperatively or PRGF incubation for 15 minutes intraoperatively). Patients who declined intervention were followed as controls. The effect of aPRP on postoperative endothelial cell loss following corneal transplantation was evaluated by specular microscopy. The researchers also assessed pachymetry and intraocular pressure on follow-up.

### **Intervention Type**

Supplement

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Postoperative endothelial cell loss using endothelial cell counts on specular microscopy at 1st, 3rd, and 6th postoperative months

### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Hexagonality measured using specular microscopy at 1st, 3rd, and 6th postoperative months
2. Corneal thickness using specular microscopy at 1st, 3rd, and 6th postoperative months

### **Completion date**

07/03/2023

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Patients older than 18 years
2. Undergoing penetrating keratoplasty for any reason by the previously mentioned surgeons from June 2021 to December 2022
3. All the tissue was provided by the same Eye Bank (COBANCOL), with no more than 14 days of preservation

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

18 years

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

30

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Tissue from another institution operated by other surgeons
2. Patients from vulnerable populations.
3. Patients with renal failure, anemia, or immunosuppressed
4. Patients with previous trabeculectomies or glaucoma valve implants

**Date of first enrolment**

28/06/2021

**Date of final enrolment**

02/02/2023

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

Colombia

**Study participating centre**

**Clinica Barraquer de America**

Ac 100 #18a-51

BOGOTA

Colombia

-

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

Instituto Barraquer de América

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/02q3wgj37>

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Research organisation

## Funder Name

Francisco Barraquer-Coll Research Grant

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Carolina Mercado MD (caromercadoa@gmail.com).

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>		12/08/2024	17/04/2025	Yes	No