

Conductive Keratoplasty:

Effective, Safe Results for Presbyopia

One surgeon discusses his technique and results with this procedure.

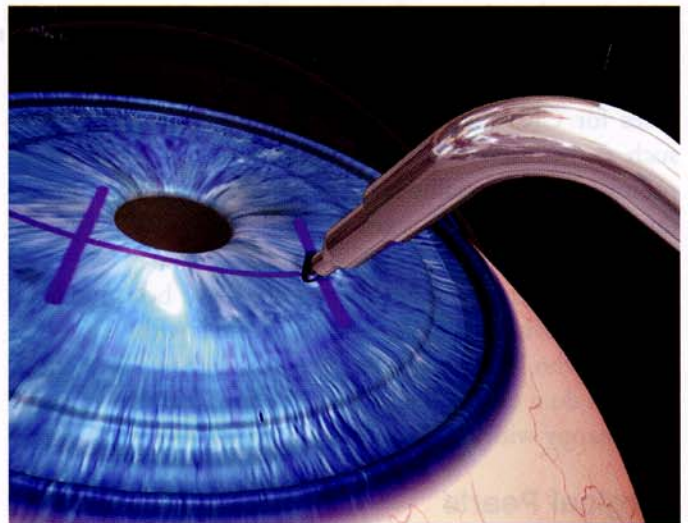
BY RACHEL M. RENSHAW, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Conductive keratoplasty, known as NearVision CK (Refractec, Irvine, Calif.) was introduced to the refractive market in April 2002 and since that time, has become a mainstay in many surgeons' practices. NearVision CK uses a radiofrequency pulse applied with a probe tip to heat and shrink the collagen on the periphery of the cornea, thus steepening the angle to improve near visual acuity. The CK procedure has been compared to laser thermal keratoplasty (LTK), which also shrinks collagen, but instead of relying on laser energy applied to the cornea, CK uses radio frequency energy to penetrate deeper into the corneal stroma for a longer-lasting effect than is achieved with laser energy on the surface.

NearVision CK provides an alternative for patients with presbyopia who wish to be spectacle-free for seeing up close but do not relish an invasive procedure such as hyperopic LASIK, PRK or IOL implantation. H.L. "Rick" Milne, M.D., president of the Eye Center, PA, in Columbia, S.C., has been using NearVision CK for hyperopic correction on his patients with presbyopia for about 4 years. This article will discuss his clinical experience with the procedure including patient profile, technique and overall results with CK.

Patient Criteria

Dr. Milne says that the perfect patient for a NearVision CK procedure is the emmetropic presbyope who needs glasses for reading and other similar near vision activities.



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"This is good for any patient who needs up to 2.25 D to 2.50 D hyperopic correction." Dr. Milne continues, "The other patients who have success are pseudophakic emmetropes and those who have had LASIK or PRK prior to becoming presbyopic — who have been made emmetropic by surgery and now have lost their near vision."

In his practice, Dr. Milne has found that when providing the available options to his patients, they usually choose the non-invasive CK procedure because it offers the benefits of refractive correction with few risks. He counsels them frankly so that they understand the procedures available to them.

"I tell patients they have two choices: we can reshape

