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Editorial
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Laser Treatment of Conjunctival Nevus

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Editorial

Conjunctival nevus is accumulation of melanocyte in conjunctiva and manifests various appearances. Conjunctival nevi could be divided into 2 categories according to their appearance and depth: superficial nevi and deep-vascularized nevi [1]. A superficial conjunctival nevus is flat, located in the epithelium/subepithelium and easily removed by argon laser photocoagulation. Otherwise, deep-vascularized nevus which is elevated can have cysts in it and get nutrition from nearby vasculature. We reported laser treatment for conjunctival nevus in 2006 and 2013 [1,2] for pigmented superficial conjunctival nevus. Before laser treatment, surgical excision was performed to remove the nevus. For deep-vascularized nevus, surgical excision would be a treatment of choice because the nevus invaded to deeper Tenon's layer to the boundary of sclera and can't be ablated by argon laser. But for superficial conjunctival nevus, surgical excision would result in scar and neovascularization especially the nevus is large in size. The melanocyte in superficial conjunctival nevus is located in the epithelium, removing epithelium is enough for treatment. In argon laser photoablation, laser energy reaches on the superficial conjunctiva, and easily remove conjunctival epithelium and does not harm deep conjunctival structure and Tenon's layer.

Laser Procedure

After administration of proparacaine hydrochloride 0.5% (Alcaine; Alcon Laboratories, Fort Worth, Texas, USA), the laser was focused on the area of nevus directly [1,2].

The laser is set as spot size 200 um, duration of the laser pulse 0.1 second, and the energy ranged from 300 mW to 350 mW. After finishing the laser procedure, I rub the nevus area with cotton-tipped swab and the nevus is removed on the spot. For patients, after laser treatment, only conjunctival injection left which will be disappeared within 2 weeks.

Postoperative Care

Patients are instructed to instill 2 eye drops four times a day for 1 week. The eye drops are any antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drops like quinolone and fluorometholone. I usually see the patient again 2 weeks after the laser treatment. Until that time, conjunctival injection is usually

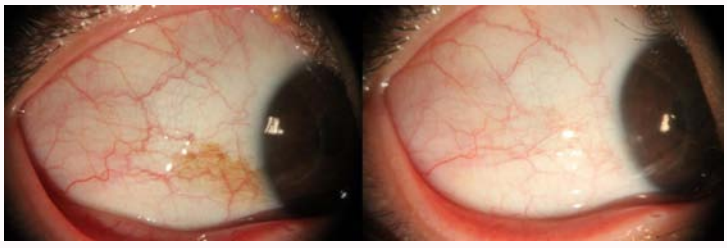

Figure 1: Pre- and post-laser photos of conjunctival nevus. There is brownish conjunctival nevus on conjunctiva at the 8 O'clock of cornea (left). The conjunctival nevus is completely disappeared after argon laser photoablation (right) – 2 weeks after laser treatment.

Table 1: Differences between superficial conjunctival nevus and deep-vascularized nevus.

	Superficial nevus	Deep-vascularized nevus
Location in the conjunctiva	Epithelium, subepithelium	Deep stroma
elevation	No, usually flat	Mostly, yes
Movable over conjunctiva	Movable	Non-movable
Increase in size	Not common	common
treatment	Argon laser photocoagulation	excision

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subsided and patients are very satisfied. This procedure is very simple and easy to apply to. Table 1 shows the difference between superficial and deep conjunctival nevus and Figure 1 shows pre-/post- laser treatment.

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