

Corneal Cross-linking Standardized Terminology

We read with interest the editorial entitled “Corneal Cross-linking (CXL): Standardizing Terminology and Protocol Nomenclature.”¹ We would like to clarify that we recommended the use of the term “corneal cross-linking” in a previous publication.² For the sake of completeness, a comprehensive bibliography supporting this claim is added here for the journal’s readers.³⁻⁶

In the same editorial, we did not agree with the term “prophylactic CXL,” which is misleading and does not have scientific or clinical support. Recommending the use of CXL in combination with corneal refractive surgery to prevent corneal ectasia is erroneous because the primary factor to avoid this complication remains the accurate patient selection.

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Reply

We thank Drs. Lombardo and Serrao for their added bibliography providing a more complete background as to why we advocate for the use of corneal cross-linking (CXL) as the best general term to describe the cross-linking procedure.

We share their concerns regarding the term “prophylactic CXL,” and specifically set out to clarify in our editorial¹ that “By defining these terms, we are not advocating for specific indications, merely working to clarify the discussions surrounding them.” To be clear, we do not advocate the use of CXL at the time of refractive surgery as a prophylactic measure. Rather, we agree with the authors that to date the science supporting this technique is sparse at best. However, it is a reality that this treatment strategy is in practice and being discussed at meetings and in the literature. To better recognize which approach is discussed in future publications, we believed it appropriate to provide a standardized general term to best identify publications and presentations that fit this theme to improve our collective ability to evaluate this contentious topic.

REFERENCE

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