Reviewer's report

Title: Primary Graft Failure Associated with Epithelial Downgrowth: A Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 8 February 2005

Reviewer: Nick Mamalis

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. In the case presentation, the authors state that there was no aqueous leak from the wound or from suture tracks, but do not note if a Seidel test was actually done on this patient to confirm that there were no micro leaks present. 2. In the pathology, the authors need to state that the serial sections were done to evaluate the suture tracks completely to make sure that there was no sign of epithelial downgrowth on any of the suture tracks. Similarly, there is no mention of any sign of epithelial downgrowth at the cut edge of the surface of the cornea transplant button.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. The authors conclude in both the manuscript and in the abstract that the epithelial downgrowth was "subsequent to instead of causing diffuse endothelial cell loss and primary graft failure". While this is the potential reason for the epithelial downgrowth in the primary graft failure are well discussed in the discussion section of this paper, this conclusion is still speculative in nature. While the authors find no other risk factors for epithelial downgrowth and this is likely the etiology, the tone of their conclusions should be tempered somewhat given the speculative nature of these conclusions.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.