

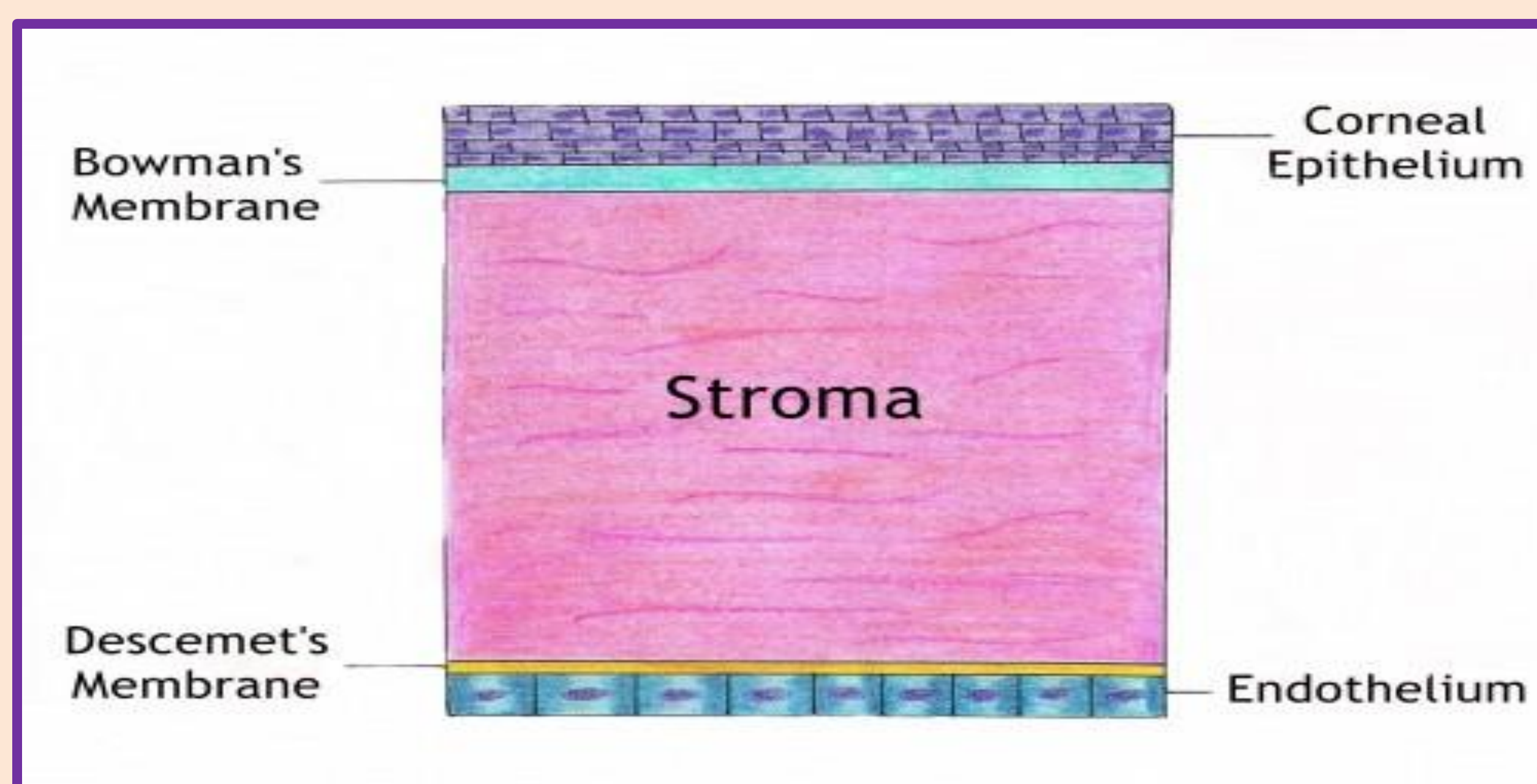
“A Critical Look at Corneal Abrasion during Non-ocular Surgery”

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Background

- An increase in corneal abrasion (CA) was reported after non-ocular surgeries in this urban acute care hospital.
- CA is the most common ocular complication of an anesthetized patient and it is preventable. It is a painful condition that occurs as a result of injury to the top surface of the eye.
- The cornea consists of five layers; the top layer is the epithelium and is rich in nerve endings, that when exposed from an abrasion causes severe pain, tearing, photophobia and decreased vision.
- A knowledgeable surgical team initiating the proper eye protection for the patient can prevent this injury.
- An audit of methods for eye protection yielded multiple variations in technique.



Corneal Abrasion



Purpose

The aim of this project is to increase awareness of the perioperative staff about CA and provide them with best practices in prevention.



Methodology

An educational program was given to the perioperative staff regarding the occurrence of CA and evidence based practices for prevention .

Results

Upon completion of the educational program, staff surveys reported an increased awareness of CA and willingness to incorporate best practices for prevention of CA in caring for the anesthetized patient.

Conclusion

Injury of CA during surgery:

- Harms the patient
- Decreases Patient satisfaction
- Increases cost of treatment
- Can lead to litigation

A knowledgeable, collaborative surgical team that provide evidence based eye protection to anesthetized patients will help prevent CA and its sequelae.



References

