SCOPE OF THE METHOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Method relates to</th>
<th>Human health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Method is situated in</td>
<td>Basic Research, Regulatory use - Routine production, Translational - Applied Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of method</td>
<td>In vitro - Ex vivo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This method makes use of</td>
<td>Human derived cells / tissues / organs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specify the type of cells/tissues/organs</td>
<td>Corneal cells</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION

Method keywords

- cornea-on-chip
- Cornea
- organ-on-chip
Scientific area keywords

Tissue engineering
in vitro 3D modelling
Ophtalmology
pharmacokinetics
Extracellular matrices

Method description

The main objective of this research project is to create the first full-thickness cornea-on-chip, which comprises a 3D construct with every cellular layer of the cornea. This construct is embedded in a microfluidic chip with two channels that are continuously perfused. The epithelial side of the construct is exposed to an artificial tear film and the endothelial side is connected to an artificial anterior chamber. The former allows injection of ophthalmic formulations and simulates the physiology of the tear film while the latter can be used for sampling and providing nutrients.

Lab equipment

Pumps

Method status

Still in development

PROS, CONS & FUTURE POTENTIAL

Advantages
- Controlled environment for compound testing
- Human tissue
- *In vitro* method with near *in vivo* accuracy

**Challenges**

- No fundamental studies on corneal development

**Modifications**

- Corneal nerves,
- Corneal microbiome,
- Corneal immune system,
- Integrated readout.

**Future & Other applications**

- Corneal disease modelling,
- Pharmacodynamics.

**REFERENCES, ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION**

**Associated documents**

**Links**

An Overview of Advanced In Vitro Corneal Models: Implications for Pharmacologic...
Building the human cornea on a chip
Establishing and validation of a human cornea-on-chip for preclinical drug deve...
Artificial Lithographic MODel for COrNeal drug Screening (AL MOD CONS)
PARTNERS AND COLLABORATIONS

Organisation
Name of the organisation University of Antwerp (UAntwerpen)
Department Translational Neurosciences
Country Belgium
Geographical Area Flemish Region