



# Managing Chronic Dry Eye with Scleral Lenses in a Patient Without Lacrimal Glands due to Aspergillosis

Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry  
Elizabeth Escobedo, O.D., FAAO



## Case Presentation

A 50-year-old Caucasian female presented on 05/29/2018 for a new scleral lens fitting due to chronic dry eye syndrome secondary to lacrimal gland removal OU and poor eyelid closure from multiple facial reconstructive surgeries. 10 years ago, she suffered an Aspergillosis infection secondary to a bone marrow transplant to treat her acute myeloid leukemia. She also has a history of wearing scleral lenses with autologous serum to help manage her chronic dryness.

*Aspergillus* is a ubiquitous mold that can cause a variety of opportunistic diseases, including invasive aspergillosis, aspergilloma, and allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis. Invasive aspergillosis continues to pose a significant threat to immunocompromised patients including those with malignancy or undergoing aggressive chemotherapy. With 15% of patients developing invasive aspergillosis 2 weeks after transplantation, patients who have had bone marrow transplants have been shown to have a case-fatality rate of 86.7%, a rate higher than any other underlying condition.

**Medical History:** Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Sinusitis, Depression, Thyroid Dysfunction, Graft Versus Host Disease, Aspergillosis infection

**Ocular History:** severe ocular dryness OU, Pseudophakia OS

**Surgical History:** 17 facial reconstructive surgeries, bone marrow transplant, cataract surgery OS

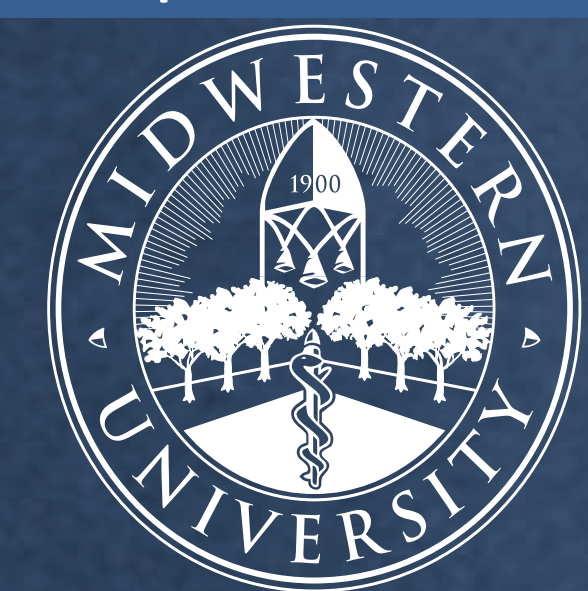
## Exam Findings

Visual acuities (sc):  
OD 20/40 PH 20/25  
OS 20/25  
Visual fields: PERRL OU (-)APD  
IOP: FTFC OD and OS  
Tear film: FROM

	OD	Slit Lamp Exam	OS
	Inferior ectropion, OS>OD	Adnexa	Inferior ectropion, OS>OD
	Superior pannus covering entire superior quadrants approaching visual axis, +2 PEE across cornea, (+) filaments	Cornea	Localized neo superior nasal, +2 PEE, stromal incision scars, new neo development inferior to visual axis, (+) filaments
	Trace NSC	Lens	PCO – obstructing VA

## Management

Due to poor fitting lenses causing neovascularization, the patient was re-fit into Digiform 16.6 scleral lenses and instructed to continue filling her lenses with autologous serum. The patient was also prescribed Pred Forte 1% BID OU to help reduce the further development of neovascularization. Both scleral lenses and intraocular pressures were monitored at follow up visits.



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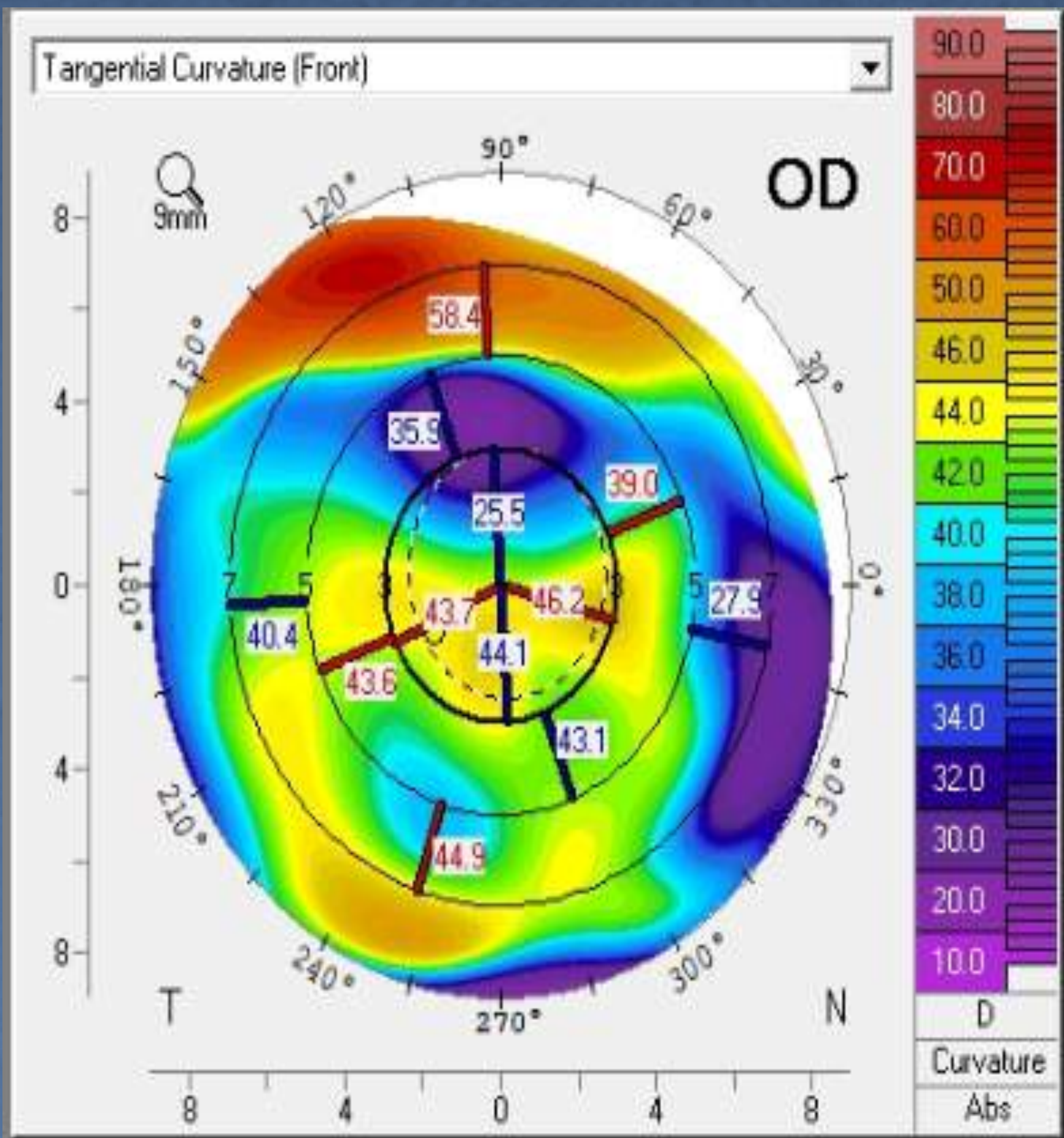


Image A: OD corneal topography – 40.1/44.2@001

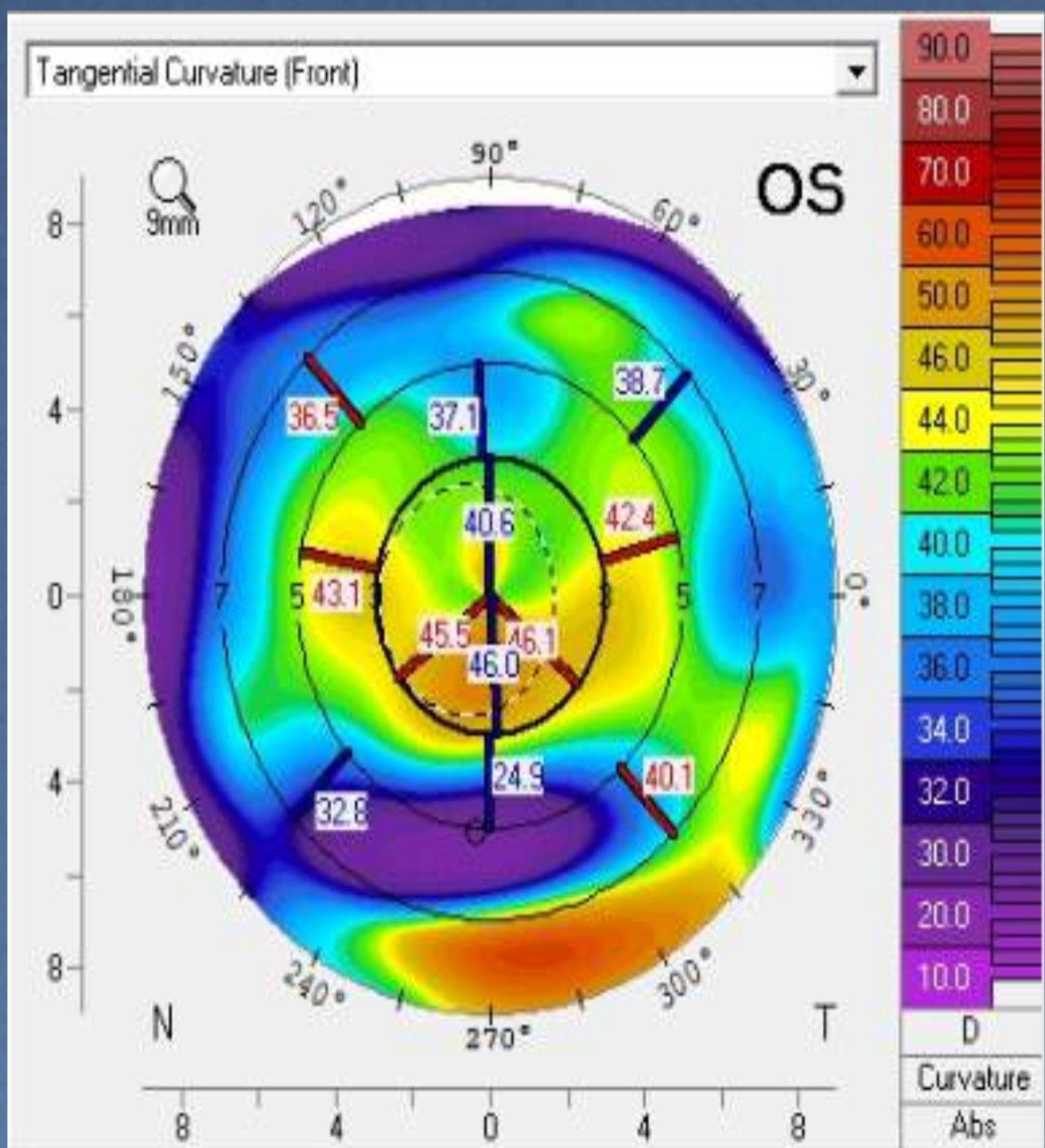


Image B: OS corneal topography – 43.3/47.3@095

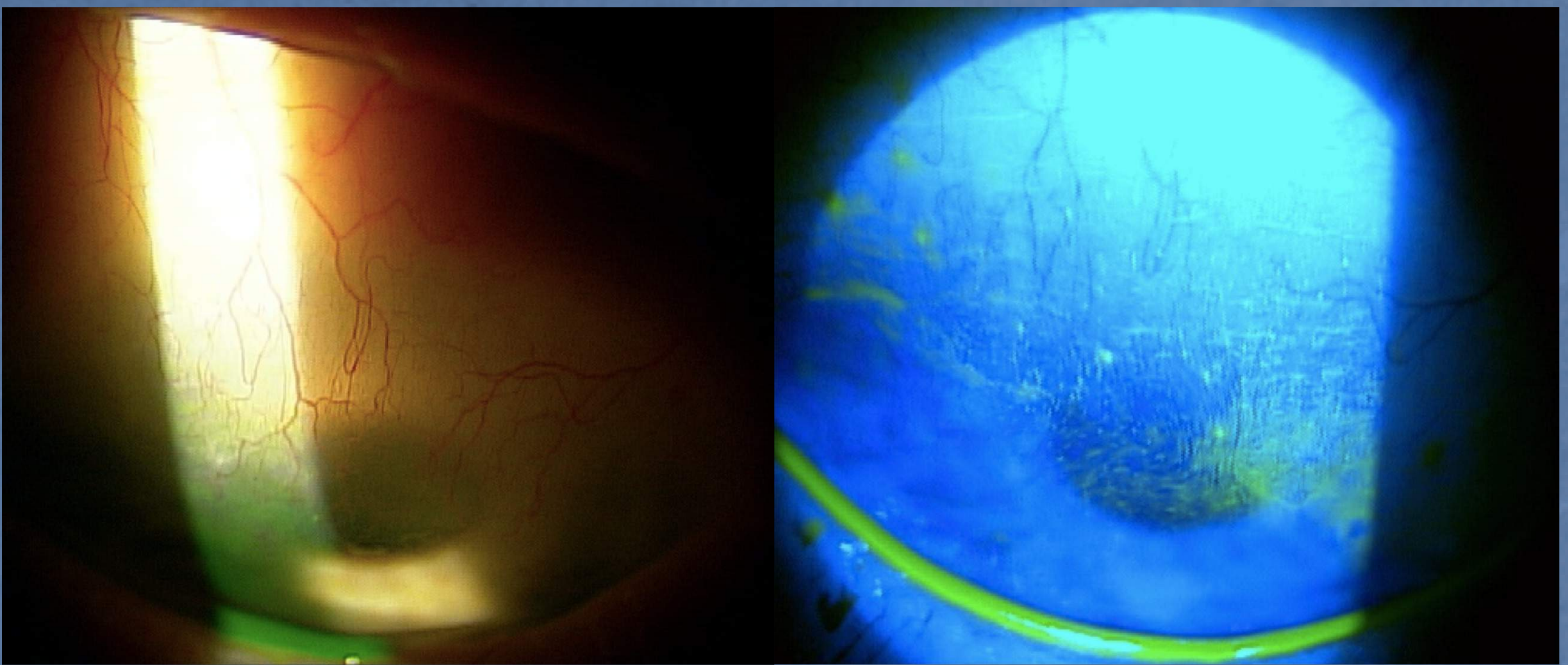


Image C: OD superior corneal pannus

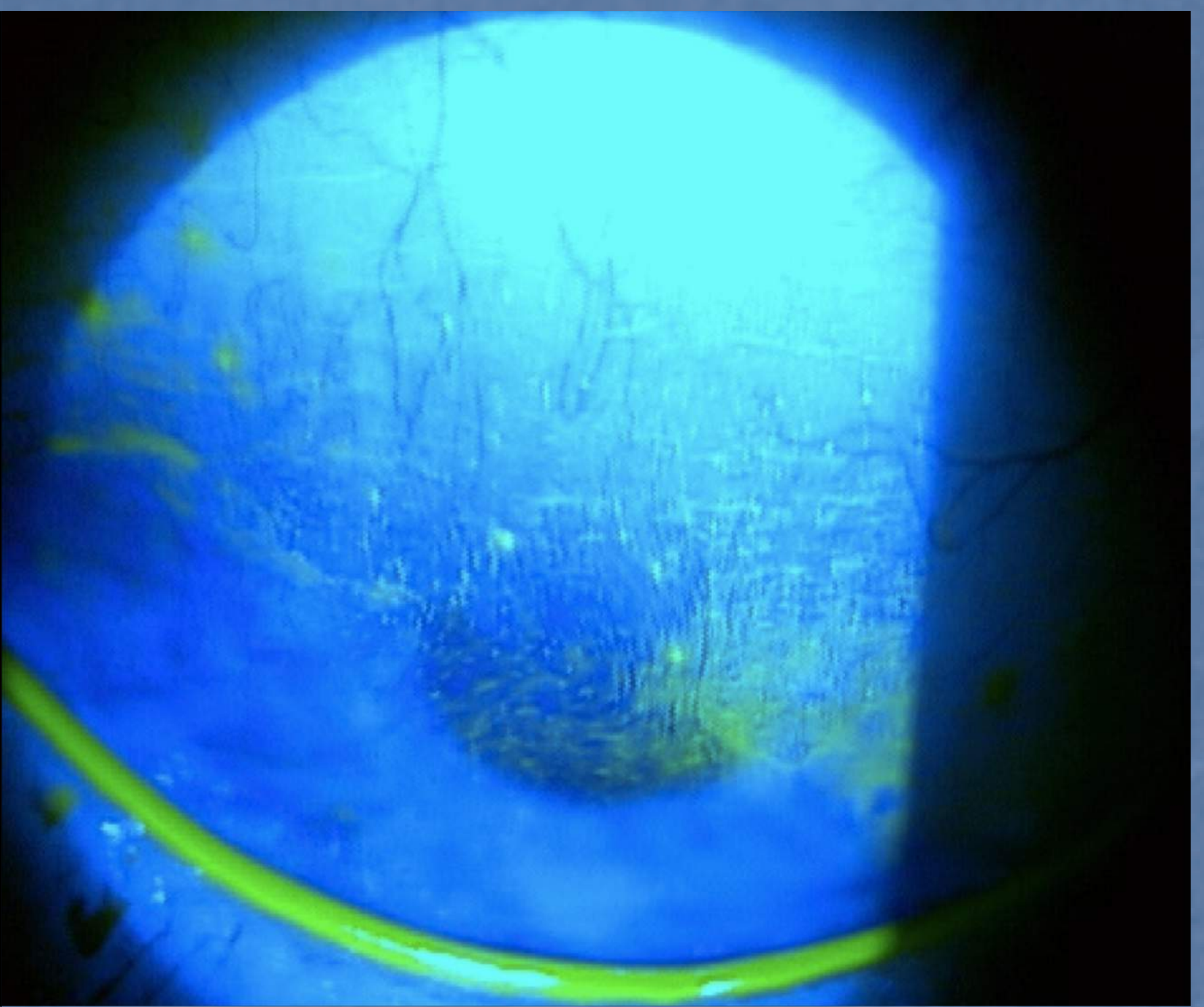


Image D: OD corneal staining after debridement of filaments

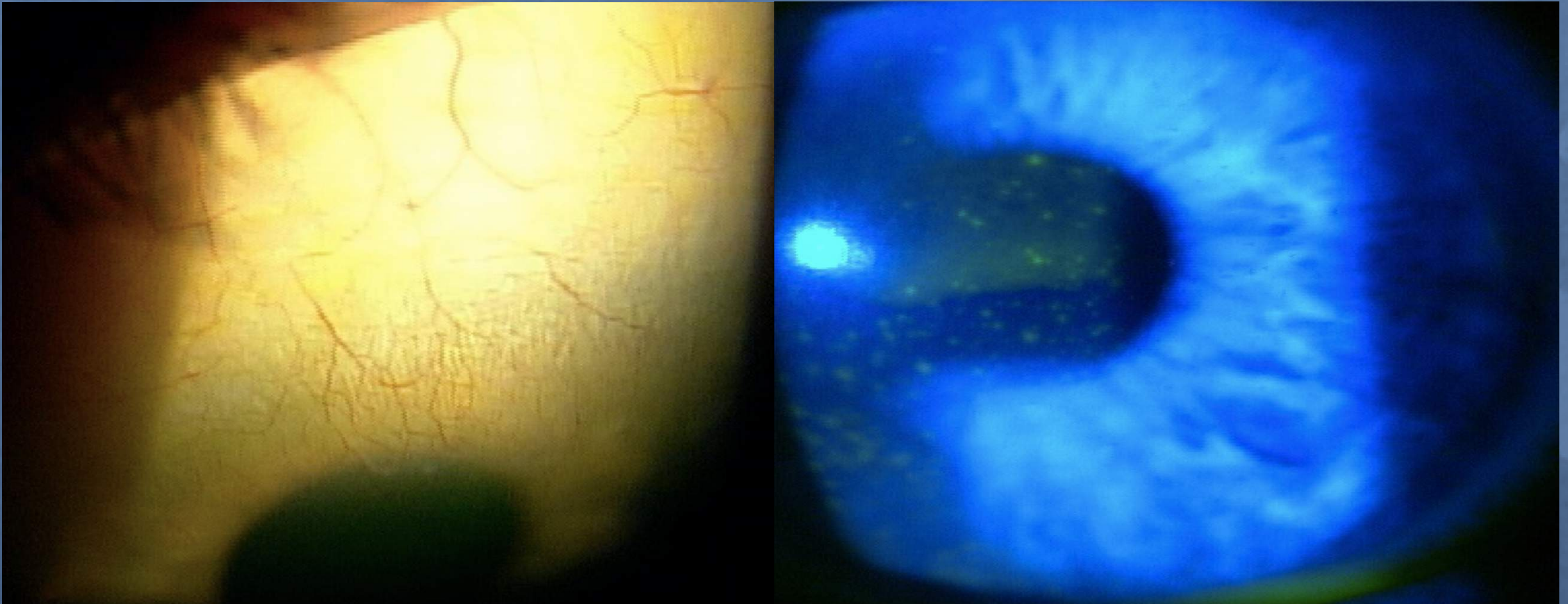


Image E: OS superior corneal neovascularization

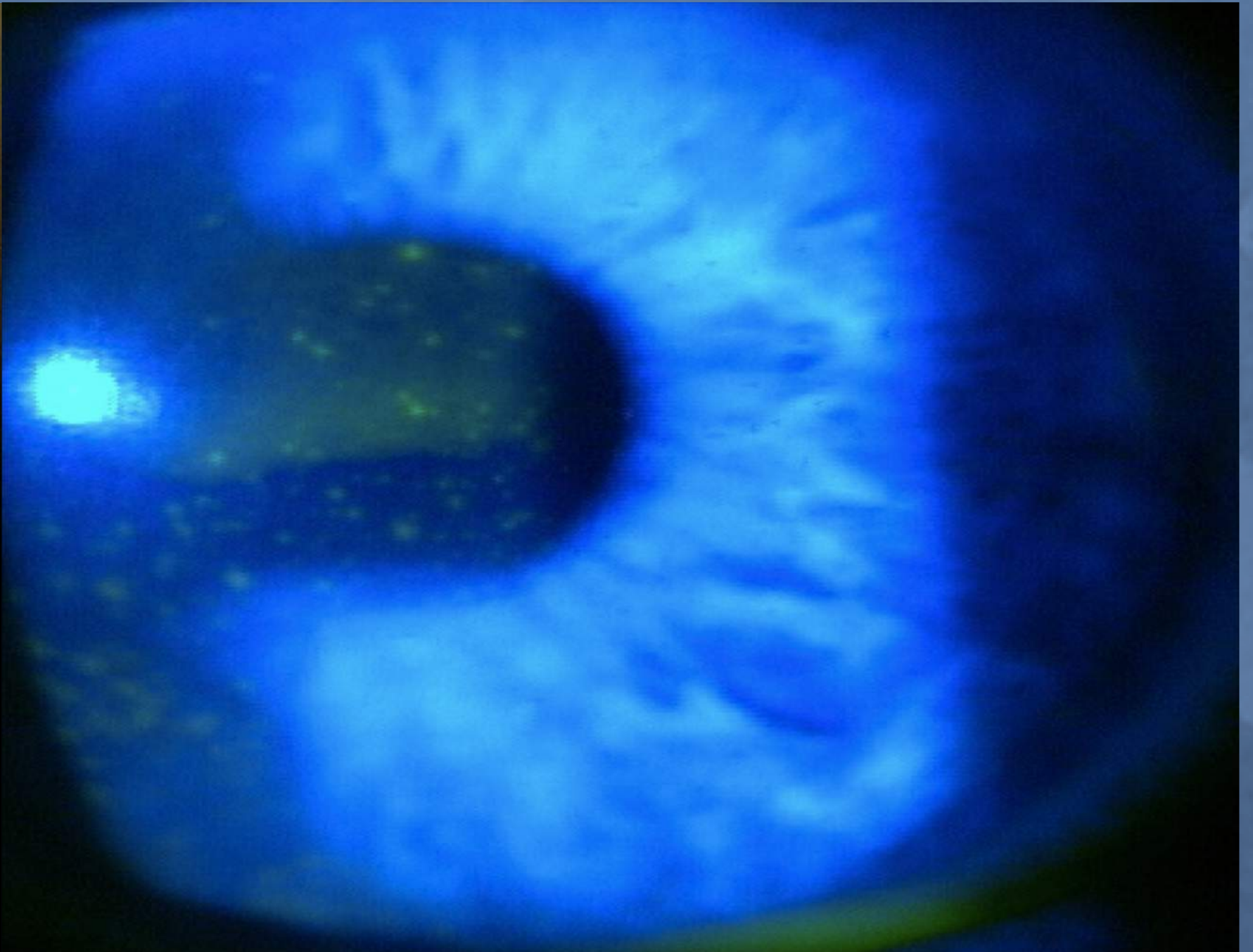


Image F: OS corneal staining after debridement of filaments

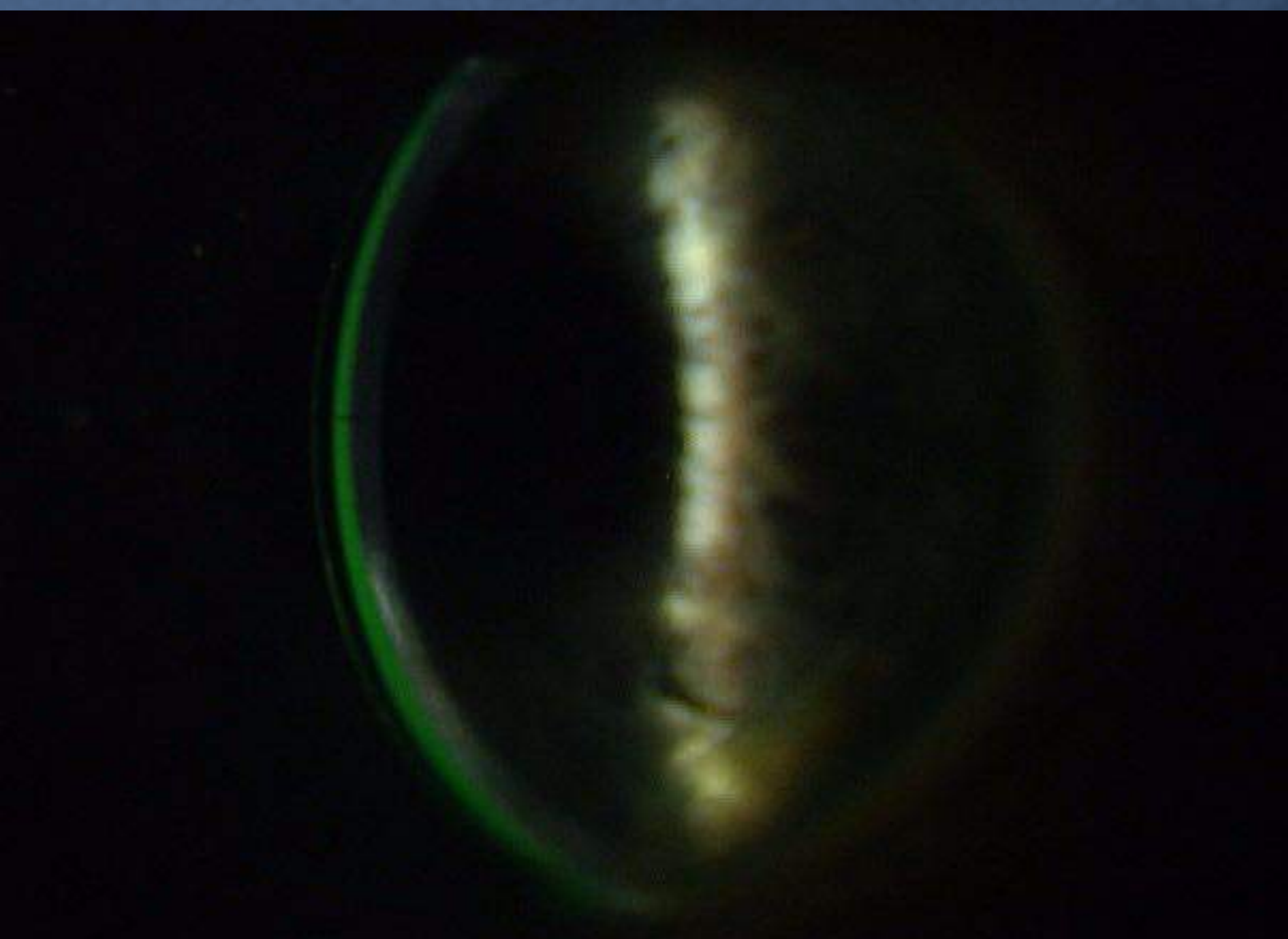


Image G: Central clearance of OD final lens after 4 hours of settlement

OD	Lens Parameter	OS
-1.50 DS	Power	+2.25 D
8.00 mm	Base Curve	8.25 mm
16.6 mm	Diameter	16.6 mm
Contamac Optimum Extra	Material	Contamac Optimum Extra

Table 1: Final lens parameters (Digiform 16.6 scleral lenses)

## Discussion

As discussed by Lin et. al., bone marrow transplant recipients are more likely to develop a disseminated disease, which becomes more difficult to treat and more likely to affect multiple organ systems. Currently, the standard of care for aspergillosis is amphotericin B, however, Lin et. al. discovered in a systematic review of 50 studies involving 1941 patients, that 50% of subjects died despite having received treatment.

Due to her bone marrow transplant, the patient suffered an invasive aspergillosis that affected her lungs, sinuses, and lacrimal glands, which eventually had to be removed. Since the removal of her lacrimal glands, she has suffered severe ocular dryness that has been managed by scleral lenses and autologous serum. Since she began wearing scleral lenses, her quality of life has improved.

**Conclusion:** Scleral lenses are a great modality to help improve symptoms of severe dryness. Not only do they provide vision and lubrication for these patients, but in cases such as our patient, they can also serve as a form of protection for the ocular surface.

## References

1. Lin, S.J., Schranz, J., Teutsch, S.M. "Aspergillosis Case-Fatality Rate: Systemic Review of the Literature." *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 36, 2001, pp. 35-40.
2. Dattam, D.L., Singh, N. "Invasive Aspergillosis in Transplant Recipients." *Medicine*, vol. 79, no. 2, 2000, pp. 122-123.