

TABLE 4-1

## INDICATIONS FOR AND CONTRAINDICATIONS TO SUPERFICIAL ANTERIOR LAMELLAR KERATOPLASTY

INDICATIONS	CONTRAINDICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-keratitis scars</li> <li>• Post-traumatic scars</li> <li>• Salzmann nodular degeneration</li> <li>• Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies</li> <li>• Stromal dystrophies</li> <li>• Trachomatous keratopathy</li> <li>• Post-chemical injury scars</li> <li>• Severe scarring after photorefractive keratectomy (PRK)</li> <li>• Recurrent epithelial ingrowth after LASIK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep scars involving more than one-third of the anterior corneal stroma</li> <li>• Corneal endothelial disorders</li> <li>• Uncontrolled glaucoma</li> <li>• Active uveitis</li> <li>• Ocular surface disorders</li> <li>• Eyes with small palpebral aperture</li> <li>• Deep-set eyes</li> <li>• Systemic conditions like uncontrolled diabetes, collagen vascular disease, and immunocompromising conditions</li> </ul>

## CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

The indications of SALK include the pathologies limited to anterior one-third of the corneal stroma (Table 4-1), such as in:

- *Post keratitis scars* (Figure 4-1): Keratitis could heal with either a nebular, macular, or leucomatous opacity. This technique could be very useful for such scars that are limited to the anterior one-third of the stromal depth.
- *Post-traumatic scars*: Trauma could also result in scars or opacities limited to the anterior layers of the cornea. The aforementioned techniques in such cases could minimize the risk of suture-related complications and provide a quick visual rehabilitation in such cases.
- *Salzmann nodular degeneration*: The degenerative changes are limited to the superficial layers of the cornea and a SALK comes handy in these cases to restore the vision.
- *Epithelial-stromal TGFBI dystrophies* (Figure 4-2): The pathology in these cases remains limited to the epithelium or the anterior stroma in depth. The opacities are quite superficial, rendering them easily amenable to SALK.