**Supplementary Figure 1.** Score template of corneal neovascularization in the 3 categories adapted from Deutsch and Hughes (1979) related to the intensity of corneal alkali burn at the 7th day: (0) absence of new vessels; (1) mild: when the new vessels are between the limbus and the pupil border; (2) moderate and severe: new vessels beyond the pupil border. This template was used to classify the other pictures by similarity.

![Score template image](image)

**Supplementary Figure 2.** Immunofluorescence showing hVEGFR1 expression in the LG of the AdVEGFR1 group (A). The LG of the Ad Null (B) and Control (C) groups were treated in parallel and were also harvested at 7 d but did not show any staining for VEGFR1. The photo in the upper right position illustrates the expression of VEGFR expressed in lymphocytes after Ad vector transfection (black arrows) (positive control). (B) The slides were counterstained with H&E. Magnification 200x.

![Immunofluorescence images](image)
Supplementary Figure 3. Graphic showing the distribution of neovascularization results by category (absent, mild or moderate and severe) observed in rats from the groups submitted to gene transfer with AdVEGFR1 (n=12), AdNull (n=10) or Control (saline) (n=10) in the LG, followed by corneal alkali burn with 1 M NaOH and evaluated 7 days later (p=0.0336, Chi-square test).