



**Supplementary Figure S1.** Schematic representation of the corneal areas of study. Four peripheral areas of study (A-D) were defined. The area corresponding to PRK lesion was delimited by a circle (E). Two additional concentric circles (1 and 0.5 mm of diameter) were also defined to count the number of subbasal nerves crossing each circle. In uninjured, control corneas, an E circle of similar diameter was also defined in the central cornea. To calculate peripheral nerve density, the number of subbasal nerves crossing the red line was counted. Blue area depicts the corneal area where images shown in Fig. 2 were taken.