British Journal of Ophthalmology, 1985, **69**, 76

Correspondence

Familial exudative vitreoretinopathy

SIR, Chaudhuri *et al.* reported abnormal platelet aggregation in patients with familial exudative vitreoretinopathy (FEVR) from two separate pedigrees.[1]

Incontinentia pigmenti is a rare skin disorder which is occasionally associated with proliferative retinopathy. The active retinal lesions of incontinentia pigmenti closely resemble those of FEVR.[2] Recently one of us (G.A.G.) saw a 13-week-old child with biopsy-proved incontinentia pigmenti. The far temporal retina in each eye was avascular. There were preretinal 'sea-fan' type vasoproliferative lesions posterior to the demarcation line between vascularised and non-vascularised retina in both eyes. Platelet function studies were carried out on this child and compared with results from a healthy 6-month-old boy with a blocked nasolacrimal duct. Platelet aggregation to added arachidonic acid (1·5 mg/ml), adrenaline (10 μM), collagen (0·5 mg/100 ml) and ADP (3 μM) showed no difference between the patient and control. Platelet thromboxane synthesis was determined in triplicate after stimulation with arachidonic acid (1·8 mM).[3] The rates of thromboxane synthesis were similar for both the patient and control (patient 5697±396 pg/min/10^7 platelets (mean±SE), control 5042±158). The work of Chaudhuri *et al.* remains to be confirmed in other patients with FEVR. Our study suggests that an underlying disorder of platelet thromboxane metabolism is not responsible for the abnormal retinal vascularisation in incontinentia pigmenti.

Departments of Ophthalmology, Haematology and Surgery, Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park, South Australia 5042

G. A. GOLE
K. GOODALL
M. J. JAMES

References

1 Chaudhuri PR, Rosenthal AB, Goulstine DB, Rowlands D, Mitchell VE. Familial exudative vitreoretinopathy associated with familial thrombocytopathy. *Br J Ophthalmol* 1983; **67**: 755–8.
2 Van Nouhuys CE. Dominant exudative vitreoretinopathy and other vascular developmental disorders of the peripheral retina. The Hague: Junk, 1982: 282.
3 Ford WDA, James MJ, Walsh JA. Congenital diaphragmatic hernia: association between pulmonary resistance and plasma thromboxane concentrations. *Arch Dis Child* 1984; **59**: 143–6.

Book review

YAG Laser Ophthalmic Microsurgery. By STEPHEN L. TROKEL. Pp. 209. £41·40. Appleton-Century-Crofts: Norwalk, Connecticut. 1983.

This book is an excellent introduction to YAG (yttrium-aluminium-garnet) laser usage. It is essential reading for anyone embarking on the complexity and difficulties of this form of therapy. The book outlines in detail the YAG physics, the interaction of YAG pulses with ocular tissue, safety with the instrument and its clinical uses, and the possible complications of treatment with it. Although the subject is young and many of the lasers and techniques are undergoing modification, this book is recommended reading for any student of lasers. A M PETER HAMILTON

Notes

International conference on Behçet's disease

A multidisciplinary international conference on Behçet's disease will be held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Medicine in London on 5–6 September 1985. It is hoped that there will be international participation from specialists of many disciplines to review recent advances in the understanding of the aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, and treatment of this intractable multisystem disease. Further information from Miss M Mitchell, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1.

Immunology and the eye

The 4th International Symposium on the Immunology and Immunopathology of the Eye will take place in Padova, Italy, on 2–4 May 1986. The main topics will include: autoimmunity, immunoregulation, vasculitis and ocular inflammation, immunology of infections, hormones in immunopathology, soluble mediators of inflammation, and general ocular immunology. The deadline for abstracts is 31 August 1985. Details from Dr Iva A. Fregona, c/o Clinica Oculistica dell'Università di Padova, Via Giustiniani 2, 35128 Padova, Italy.

Training in research

The Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology (ICEPO) has received a grant from the Eleanor Naylor Dana Trust for the training of highly motivated ophthalmologists in the techniques of clinical research and preventive ophthalmology. Fellowships are for one to three years and provide a basic living allowance as well as tuition for relevant course or degree work at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Details from Training Coordinator, ICEPO, Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology, Wilmer Institute, Room 120, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.

Oculoplastic congress

The 12th International Oculoplastic Society Congress will be held on 17–24 February 1985 as a Virgin Islands air/sea yacht cruise. Details from Ms Janet Shaw, c/o Pierre Guibor, MD, 630 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA.

Familial exudative vitreoretinopathy.

G A Gole, K Goodall and M J James

Br J Ophthalmol 1985 69: 76
doi: 10.1136/bjo.69.1.76-a