LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

Surgically removed submacular nematode

Editor,—Intraocular filariasis is an uncommon disease in civilised countries. In only a few cases has the worm been surgically removed from the posterior portion of the eye and identified.1 In this report we describe a patient who had a filaria-like worm in an epimacular and/or submacular lesion, which was successfully removed surgically.

CASE REPORT
A 38 year old woman complained of decreased visual acuity in her left eye of 5 days’ duration. Her medical history was unremarkable. The patient had two pet dogs, and she had not travelled to foreign countries in recent years. On examination, her corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in the right eye and 20/100 in the left. No inflammation was present in the anterior segment or vitreous cavity bilaterally. The authors are grateful to Dr Keizo Yamaguchi for parasitological examination and Mr Shingo Yamazaki for fundus photographs.

Numerous subretinal hypopigmented tracks with small haemorrhages were noted in the superior retina, and perivascular haemorrhages were observed around the inferior branch of the central retinal vein (Fig 2). Fluorescein angiography showed numerous hyperfluorescent tracks without dye leakage. The patient’s blood test revealed a slightly elevated white blood cell count (10 200 × 10⁹/l; normal <9000) and elevated IgE in the serum (680 U/ml; normal <250).

On the following day pars plana vitrectomy was performed and the worm was found partially within the subretinal space of the macula. The worm was aspirated successfully through a 20 gauge silicone tipped needle and submitted for parasitological study; however, it was lost during transportation to a different laboratory. Parasitological study of the patient’s serum detected an antibody to *Dirofilaria*. Six months after surgery, the patient’s visual acuity was still 20/50. Ophthalmoscopically the hypopigmented tracks had faded, and mildly irregular pigment was observed at the edge of the retina in the macular lesion. Cone and rod electroretinograms to full field stimuli were normal bilaterally.

COMMENT
Our patient owned two dogs, and her ocular findings could be differentiated from toxocariasis, in which only larvae of *Toxocara cati* can infect humans. The length of the *Toxocara* larva is about 400 μm, and grows no longer. Although no direct microscopic evidence of *Dirofilaria* infection was obtained in our patient, a positive antibody to *Dirofilaria* in the serum indicated its infection. There have been many reports of intraocular filariasis; however, the larvae were removed and identified in only six of 56 cases reviewed by Beaver in 1989.2 Direct parasitological microscopic examination is necessary for accurate diagnosis, but serological study can be helpful, as shown in the present case.

Various types of management for intraocular parasites have been reported. Direct photocoagulation to the worm body has been successfully reported in cases with filaria-like worms3 and in one case with insect parasites.4 It has been suggested that photocoagulation denatures the parasite proteins and mitigates the immune reaction.4 If the parasite is located in the posterior pole of the retina, however, photocoagulation may cause permanent visual impairment, and surgical removal should be selected. Furthermore, photocoagulation would make parasitological identification impossible. Preretinal or subretinal parasites were retrieved successfully by pars plana vitrectomy in several reported cases.3,5 In the present case, the visual acuity was still 20/50 6 months postoperatively. The migrating worm may have caused considerable damage to the macular function, therefore, we believe that intraocular parasites should be removed as soon as possible.


Acanthamoeba keratitis occurring with daily disposable contact lens wear

Editor,—Up to 92% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis occur in contact lens users of all types.1 Failure to disinfect soft contact lenses and the use of chlorine disinfection systems are major factors accounting for the increase in cases of acanthamoeba keratitis.2 It is thought that “daily disposable” contact lenses, which require no disinfection, will have a much lower risk for the development of all forms of infectious keratitis. We report a case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurring in a daily disposable contact lens wearer. We believe this is the first such reported case.

CASE REPORT
A healthy 21 year old woman, who had been wearing daily disposable contact lenses for 1 year, wore her lenses for 4 hours on 1 day and then stored the lenses in preserved saline solution overnight in a new contact lens case. She rewore the lenses for a further 3 hours the following day. She reports that this was the first time that she had done this. She then developed a painful left eye. This was initially treated as conjunctivitis by her general practitioner and local accident and emergency department. After 2 weeks her local eye unit suspected acanthamoeba keratitis and performed an epithelial scrape that “revealed amoeba species”. She was then referred to our unit for our opinion.

On examination her visual acuity was reduced to 6/18 in the left eye. There was conjunctival injection and a mild scleritis. The

Figure 1 Fundus photograph of the left posterior pole demonstrates a white worm and preretinal haemorrhage.

Figure 2 Fundus photograph of the left eye shows a white worm at the macula, a round, preretinal haemorrhage along the supranausal retinal artery, and numerous subretinal hypopigmented tracks in the superior retina.

The cornea showing diffuse punctate staining with linear epithelial infiltrates.

The cornea showing diffuse punctate staining with perineural infiltrates.
Acanthamoebae are free living protozoa commonly found in soil and water, including tap water.\(^1\) Acanthamoeba keratitis is an uncommon but potentially devastating corneal infection. The number of cases in the United Kingdom has steadily risen over the past 20 years owing to increased awareness of the condition and the rise in contact lens wear.\(^4\,7\) Radford et al found that daily wear disposable contact lenses were associated with greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba keratitis compared with other lens types and wear systems.\(^2\) Multivariable analysis showed that this was largely attributable to a lack of disinfection, the use of non-sterile saline, and the use of chlorine based disinfection rather than alternative chemical systems. It was concluded that 80% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis could be prevented by the adequate use of an effective disinfection system. It was felt that the “low care” philosophy of daily wear disposable lenses had become “no care” in practice.


daily disposable contact lenses, in which the lens is discarded after 1 day’s wear only, were introduced in 1995. When used properly the lens is discarded after 1 day’s wear only, had become “no care” in practice. Disinfection system. It was felt that the “low care” philosophy of daily wear disposable lenses had become “no care” in practice. The case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurred with disposable contact lens wearers. A case control study. Br J Ophthalmol 1995; 79: 567–70.


**COMMENT**

**Acanthamoebae** are free living protozoa commonly found in soil and water, including tap water.\(^1\) Acanthamoeba keratitis is an uncommon but potentially devastating corneal infection. The number of cases in the United Kingdom has steadily risen over the past 20 years owing to increased awareness of the condition and the rise in contact lens wear.\(^4\,7\) Radford et al found that daily wear disposable contact lenses were associated with greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba keratitis compared with other lens types and wear systems.\(^2\) Multivariable analysis showed that this was largely attributable to a lack of disinfection, the use of non-sterile saline, and the use of chlorine based disinfection rather than alternative chemical systems. It was concluded that 80% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis could be prevented by the adequate use of an effective disinfection system. It was felt that the “low care” philosophy of daily wear disposable lenses had become “no care” in practice.


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**Clinical course of acute zonal occult outer retinopathy (AZOOR)**

**EDITOR.—**Patients with acute zonal occult outer retinopathy (AZOOR) may present with a normal fundus examination and almost normal fluorescein angiography (FA), despite severe loss of visual field and electroretinogram (ERG) abnormalities.\(^3\,4\) The lesion defined zones of the retinal receptor cells; however, the cause of the disease remain unclear.\(^5\) There is also no established conclusion about progression of visual field loss.\(^1\)

With a multifocal ERG (m-ERG), a large number of retinal locations can be stimulated simultaneously and local responses can be extracted independently in a single recording session. High resolution topographic mapping of retinal function also is possible.\(^7\) A previous report indicates its efficiency in the diagnosis of AZOOR.\(^7\) There are no reports about the clinical course. Thus, using m-ERG and static perimeter (Humphrey 30-2), the alteration of retinal function in a clinical course of a patient with AZOOR was investigated.

**CASE REPORT**

A healthy 26 year old woman presented to our outpatient clinic complaining of acute onset of visual disturbance in her left eye. Her corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in her right eye, and 20/100 in her left. The pupils were equal and reactive normally. Slit lamp and fundus examination, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging scan, and general examination were normal. HVF 30-2 demonstrated blind spot enlargement breaking out to the inferotemporal periphery in the left eye (Fig 1, top). Full field ERG showed grossly reduced A and B waves in the left eye. The FA showed slight leakage from peripapillary capillaries. Indocyanine green (ICG) angiography showed slight hypofluorescence of the macular area at a late phase.

Analysis of the mean deviation in HVF over the clinical course corresponded with the visual acuity (Fig 1, bottom). In addition, m-ERG (Veris III, Tomey, Nagoya, Japan) was analysed during the clinical course. In this examination, the fundus was divided into four foci and the sum of amplitudes in each group was measured (Fig 2, top). In the left eye, the sum of amplitudes was altered individually but all of them were affected during the clinical course. Only in the inferotemporal area did it correspond with HVF. The values in the right eye were about 5000 µV in each focus. This is almost the same as normal volunteers in our clinic (data not shown).

**COMMENT**

AZOOR may be precipitated by various retinal disorders and is characterised by rapid visual field loss which cannot be explained by the ophtalmoscopic changes resulting from the initiating disease.\(^7\) The ERG is abnormal, indicating that the field loss is due to retinal dysfunction.\(^7\) The cause of the acute damage to sharply defined zones of the retinal receptor cells in the absence of visible fundus changes in patients with AZOOR is unknown.\(^7\) In some previous reports, an apparent response to corticosteroid therapy suggested that an inflammatory and perhaps an immune reaction may play a part in the disease; however, there is no specific evidence for an immune abnormality.\(^7\) An infectious aetiology could also be the cause of AZOOR.\(^7\)
The findings of AZOOR that we observed in our patient suggest that the retinal recovery assessed by m-ERG was different for the lesion (main focus was related to the inferotemporal retina) and was delayed compared with visual acuity and HVF. Perhaps this delayed retinal recovery reflects a subtle microrheological disturbance that can not be clearly detected by FA or ICG. Slight leakage in FA and slight hypofluorescence on the late phase in ICG would suggest such a microrheological disturbance.

When better understanding of the aetiology and pathophysiology of AZOOR is available, the clinical response to appropriate therapy may perhaps best be followed by m-ERG.

KANAKO YASUDA
MASAHIKO SHIMURA
MICHIRU NORO
MITSURU NAKAZAWA
MAKOTO TAMAI
Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Tohoku University, Sendai 980–8574, Japan.

Correspondence to: Masahiko Shimura, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Tohoku University, Sendai 980–8574, Japan.

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wound to leak. The UBM study provided us with an interesting insight into how the scleral suture repair may have worked to correct the wound leak as shown in Figure 2. The fact that hypotony resolved after suturing the wound, indicated that the external part of the wound was secure (no slit is apparent) despite the fact that the internal part of the wound was gaping even more postoperatively. This finding implies, therefore, that only minimal overall alteration of the wound architecture postoperatively, sufficient to rectify the leak.

We believe that UBM is a valuable adjunct in the management of similar cases by clearly identifying both the presence and exact location of leak. Finally, pneumatic retinopexy should be performed with caution, especially in cases of previously operated eyes with large incision wounds.

IOANNIS M ASLANIDES
Department of Ophthalmology, Vitreo-retinal Unit, St Michael’s Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada and VIEC (Vardinoymann Eye Institute of Crete), Greece

CHARLES J PAVLIN
Department of Ophthalmology, Ocular Oncology Clinic, Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada

LOUIS G GIAVEDONI
Department of Ophthalmology, Vitreo-retinal Unit, St Michael’s Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada

Correspondence to: Dr Ioannis M Aslanides, Vardinoymann Eye Institute of Crete. University of Crete Medical School, Voutes PO Box 1352, Iarhlion-Crete 71110, Greece

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Bilateral electrical cataract

EDITOR,—Electric trauma is not uncommon in India where majority of the population lives in the rural setting. Few cases of electric cataract have been reported in literature probably because few patients survive the high voltage of current that induces cataract formation. Most patients with electric cataract have no subjective complaints early on but become aware of the reducing visual function several months later.1

CASE REPORT

A 26 year old man complained of gradual and painless diminution of vision in both eyes, right more than left, for the past 2–3 years. There was a history of an overhead high tension electric transmission cable accidentally falling on the patient’s head 4–5 years earlier. This had resulted in immediate burn to the scalp. The patient was visually asymptomatic till about 1 year after the mishap, when he began to notice the gradual fall in vision that had progressed to its present state.

Corrected visual acuity was 20/200 right eye and 20/60 left eye. A 15 × 2.5 cm linear, sagittal scar extending from the frontal to the occipital region of the head was noticed. The lids, conjunctiva, cornea, and pupils showed no abnormality in either eye. Fundus examination was unremarkable. Slit lamp examination revealed multiple, mid-peripheral snowflake-like anterior subcapsular lens opacities in both eyes, right greater than left. In the right eye some of these opacities were seen encroaching into the visual axis and additionally a few posterior subcapsular opacities were noticed (Fig 1).

In view of the history of electrical injury and classic location and typical appearance of the lens opacities, a diagnosis of bilateral electric cataract was made. Extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) with posterior chamber intraocular lens implantation was undertaken in the right eye first followed 3 months later in left eye. The intraoperative and postoperative course were uneventful and the patient has achieved corrected visual acuity of 20/20 in both eyes.

COMMENT

Involvement of the lens exclusively, sparing other ocular structures is rare. This case documents such a possibility and also highlights the salient features involving electric trauma to the lens. The scalp burn in this case represents the entrance wound for the electrical energy but the lack of an exit wound makes this case particularly peculiar. Both entry and exit sites for the electric current have been reported by all previous authors. The excellent surgical results noted in both eyes of this patient are in keeping with the similar result reported by Portellos et al. This observation should encourage the ophthalmologist to undertake surgery for electric cataract, where necessary, without any undue concern.

USHA K RAINA
DEVEN TULI
Guru Nanak Eye Center, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India

Correspondence to: Dr Usha K Raina, 427 Hawa Singh Block, Asiad Village Complex, New Delhi-110 049, India

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Monckeberg’s sclerosis in temporal artery biopsy specimens

EDITOR,—Temporal artery biopsies are performed routinely on patients suspected of having giant cell arteritis. Of 131 pathology specimens examined at University of Illinois at Chicago Eye Center from 1975 to 1998, the most common diagnosis was atherosclerosis with moyointimal fibrosis (63%) followed by giant cell arteritis (13%). In about 6% of cases we encountered calcific sclerosis confined to the tunica media which was associated with mild tissue disorganisation surrounding the calcific plaque and disruption of the internal elastic lamina (Fig 1).

Monckeberg’s sclerosis as seen in these specimens was first described by Monckeberg in 1903. It commonly affects medium size muscular arteries and is described in femoral, tibial, radial, coronary, cerebral, and visceral arteries.1 However, its association with the temporal artery is uncommon. The infrequent occurrence of this condition in the temporal artery and the presence of a fragmented inter-
nal elastic lamina should not be erroneously interpreted as sequelae of previous arterial inflammation. The pathophysiology of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is still unclear, but it can be induced in animal models by injecting adrenal, nicotine, parathyroid hormone, and vitamin D. In addition, lumbar sympathectomy has been shown to promote occurrence of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the lower extremities in humans. 1 Automatic dysfunction from diabetic neuropathy is thought to be responsible for the occurrence of Monckeberg's in diabetic patients. 1 Unlike atherosclerosis, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is a benign condition and does not cause vascular thrombosis. In conclusion, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the temporal artery may be seen occasionally in the temporal artery. 1 It is an interesting histological diagnosis that has little clinical significance but should be recognised in temporal biopsy samples.

BIENVENIDO V CASTILLO JR ELISE TORCZYNSKI DEEPAK P EDWARD
Department of Ophthalmology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Correspondence to: Dr Deepak P Edward, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2555 W Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612, USA
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Retinal vascular abnormality in Poland's syndrome

EDITOR—Poland's syndrome is a congenital anomaly first described in 1841 consisting of unilateral hypoplasia or aplasia of the pectoralis major muscle and ipsilateral upper extremity abnormalities which often include ipsilateral syndactyly. Since then a number of associated anomalies have been reported. These include absence of the pectoral minor muscle, absence or atrophy of ipsilateral ribs two to five, aplasia of the ipsilateral breast or nipple, and simian crease of the aortic arch. Since then a number of associated anomalies have been described, no involvement of eye vasculature has been reported so far.

CASE REPORT
We examined a 39 year old man previously diagnosed with Poland's syndrome who came to our clinic because he had experienced blurred vision in the right eye for 2 months. Computed axial tomography, arteriography, and abdominal echography revealed absence of the left kidney. There was no history of diabetes or hypertension. The ophthalmological examination of the right eye revealed a visual acuity of 20/50 and a paracentral relative scotoma. The right eye showed perimacular capillary telangiectasis, retinal vascular distortion, moderate perimacular hard exudates, and retinal swelling, all of them more prominent in the temporal perimacular area. Fluorescein angiography clearly showed the vascular abnormalities (Fig 1). The left eye fundus was normal. A diagnosis of juxtafoveal retinal telangiectasis2 was made.

COMMENT
Juxtafoveal telangiectasis is difficult to detect ophthalmoscopically and therefore can be neglected by routine eye fundus examinations made before the first visual symptoms appear. Unilateral renal agenesis occurs in approximately 1 per 1000 births and can be associated with vascular anomalies.3 The aetiology of juxtafoveal telangiectasis is unknown. The patient we examined had retinal vascular malformations that may have originated in the early stages of life. Indeed, the deformed capillaries may function for many years before endothelial decompensation causes retinal swelling.4 While the exact aetiology of Poland's syndrome is not well known, it has been postulated that the original cause may be a vascular abnormality at the embryonic stages.5 The vascular abnormalities, mostly of the diseased hemithorax, associated with this syndrome and our finding of retinal vascular abnormalities in this patient support this hypothesis.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of coexistence of juxtafoveal telangiectasis, renal agenesis, and Poland's syndrome. Although we are not aware of direct evidence reported in the literature indicating any retinal involvement linked to this syndrome, it is plausible that the three anomalies found in this patient may have had common original vascular causative factors. Therefore, we recommend a careful eye fundus examination of patients presenting with this syndrome.

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FRANCISCO GOMEZ-ULLA
Servicio de Oftalmologia, Facultad de Medicina, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
FRANCISCO GONZALEZ
Servicio de Oftalmologia and Departamento de Fisiologia, Facultad de Medicina, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Correspondence to: Dr Francisco Gomez-Ulla or Dr Francisco Gonzalez, Servicio de Oftalmologia, Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, c’Galerias en E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
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Bilateral optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost

EDITOR—Latanoprost is a recent addition to the medical management of raised intraocular pressure in chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. It is a potent ocular hypotensive agent with few ocular or systemic side effects.

We report a case of bilateral optic disc oedema developing soon after commencing treatment with latanoprost which resolved once therapy was stopped.

CASE REPORT
An asymptomatic 64 year old woman presented with raised intraocular pressure. She maintained good general health, had no significant history of smoking, arterial hypertension or diabetes, and was not on any medication. Snellen visual acuities were 6/5 both eyes. The intraocular pressures were 28 mm Hg right eye and 26 mm Hg left eye. Ocular examination was otherwise unremarkable with open angles, normal optic nerves, and full Humphrey 24-2 visual fields. She was thus diagnosed as having ocular hypertension and consented to enter a prospective double masked trial comparing some of the intraocular pressure lowering drops. Therapy was commenced with one of the drugs involved in the study and at 1 month review she reported no problems with the drops. The intraocular pressures had lowered to 16 mm Hg in both eyes and the examination was otherwise unchanged. At her third visit 2 months later, she was again asymptomatic with visual acuities of 6/5 in both eyes and intraocular pressures of 15 mm Hg. However, examination of the optic nerves revealed bilateral oedema which was more prominent in the left eye. There were no signs of uveitis in either eye, pupillary reflexes were normal, colour vision and Amsler testing were not affected, and the visual fields were full. At this point the code for the trial drug was broken and it was seen that she had been using latanoprost 0.005% eye drops at night to both eyes over the 3 month period. A neurological consultation failed to find any neurological abnormality and all haematological and biochemical analyses were normal. A computed tomography scan with multiplanar reconstruction was normal.

The patient had no abnormality and she was discharged from neurological review. Follow up in the eye clinic revealed no change after 72 hours. The latanoprost was stopped and the disc swelling had largely resolved at 1 week. By 10 weeks...
both optic nerves looked normal. Visual acuities were still 6/5 in both eyes and there was no loss of colour vision or visual field. The intraocular pressures had increased to 22 mm Hg in both eyes.

**COMMENT**

Latanoprost is a prostaglandin F2 _α_ analogue which acts by increasing uveociliary outflow. Side effects include increased iris pigmentation, hypertension and increased eyelash pigmentation, anterior uveitis in patients with complicated glaucoma or in those having had previous incisional surgery, and cystoid macular oedema occurring soon after beginning latanoprost in pseudophakic or aphakic eyes. Ocular hypotony with choroidal effusions and facial rash have also been attributed to latanoprost. To the best of our knowledge, optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost has not previously been described. The mechanism behind this association is unclear. One may not be surprised to see optic nerve swelling in association with signs of posterior uveitis or hypotony but in this case it occurred without any sign of ocular inflammation and the lowest recorded intraocular pressure was 15 mm Hg. It may be feasible that the perfusion to the optic nerve heads via the short posterior ciliary arteries was compromised by a prostaglandin-like action manifesting as disc oedema. However, that latanoprost acid and prostaglandin F2 _α_ at high concentrations could cause vasoconstriction of bovine ciliary arteries and a similar action cannot be discounted in this case. The rapid resolution of the swelling with seemingly no long term sequelae once latanoprost was stopped would perhaps support this hypothesis.

**OWEN STEWART**

**LOUISE WALSH**

**MILIND PANDE**

Department of Ophthalmology, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull

Correspondence to: Mr Owen Stewart, Department of Ophthalmology, St James’s University Hospital, Leeds LS9 7TF.

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**Somatostatin scan positive gastrinoma ocular metastasis**

**EDITOR,—**Symptomatic ocular metastases are uncommon despite the 4% prevalence in patients dying of all types of malignancy in postmortem series. We report a case of ocular metastasis from a gastrinoma, which was part of the Wermer’s syndrome (multiple endocrine neoplasia ( MEN) type 1), diagnosed by indium labelled octreotide scanning.

**CASE REPORT**

A 57 year old man presented with a 1 week history of blurring in his peripheral vision in his right eye and severe loss of visual acuity, worse early morning. He had been diagnosed with MEN type 1, 8 years previously after two perforated jejunal ulcers (1978, 1990) led to a diagnosis of Zollinger–Ellison syndrome, and a hyperplastic parathyroid gland had been removed for hypercalcaemia (1990). His mother had MEN type 1.

Ophthalmic examination revealed 6/12 acuity in the right eye and 6/5 in the left. His anterior segments were unremarkable. His fundus showed a solid amelanotic lesion about one disc diameter above the right disc. Ultrasonomography demonstrated a base of 13 mm and a height of 8 mm. He also had bilateral infero temporal retinopathy. One month later the tumour base measured 14.5 mm and the thickness measured 7.9 mm. The posterior edge now practically abutted the optic disc (Fig 1). There was subretinal fluid accumulation.

A liver ultrasound revealed multiple lesions and a tumour biopsy was composed of small solid islands of polygonal cells with granular cytoplasm, diagnostic of metastatic neuroendocrine carcinoma (immunostaining positive for chromogranin, neuron specific enolase, and NCAM, negative for S-100 and HMB45 (melanoma markers)). His urinary 5HIAA was marginally raised at 133 pmol/24 hours (normal range up to 75), and a fasting intestinal peptide screen, showed a highly elevated gastrin level (on omeprazole 40 mg per day) of 343 pmol/l (normal range 0–40 pmol/l) but normal levels of other polypeptides.

No primary tumour or further metastases were seen using body computed tomograph and magnetic resonance imaging scans and the I-123 MIBG scan (meta-iodobenzyl guanidine) was also negative. An indium (In-111) labelled octreotide scan at 1 and 4 hours +PET showed focal areas of increased uptake in the right orbit (Fig 2), the nasal region, mediastinum, multiple sites in the liver, and possibly other abdominal sites. However, a positive octreotide scan is not exclusively seen with neuroendocrine tumours, since other tissues have somatostatin receptors. These include high grade lymphoma, some small cell lung cancers, occasional tumours of the breast, and in chronic inflammatory conditions where there is T cell activation including endocrine ophthalmopathy with orbital involvement. Thus, although an absolute positive diagnosis of metastatic gastrinoma cannot be made definitively in the absence of histology, in the context of this clinical case it is highly probable that the choroidal tumour is due to ocular metastasis from gastrinoma.

**COMMENT**

Gastrinoma may occur sporadically or as part of multiple endocrine neoplasia. MEN type 1 is a rare disorder, usually inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion with high penetrance which affects multiple endocrine glands (hyperparathyroid hyperplasia in 80–90%, pancreatic islet tumours in 50%, and pituitary adenomas in 40–50%).

Ocular metastasis from gastrinoma has not previously been reported, although it has been reported in other neuroendocrine tumours—for example, carcinoid. Multiple or metastatic gastrinomas (especially if actively secreting) are best localised by a new radioisotope scan using radioactively labelled somatostatin analogues. Somatostatin is a peptide elaborated by the delta cells of the islets of Langerhans and the hypothalamus. It inhibits the secretion of gastrin by gastric mucosa and many other hormones such as insulin, thyrotropin, and corticotropin. Somatostatin receptor are found on neuroendocrine tumours (80% of gastrinomas) and indium labelled octreotide visualises all somatostatin receptor positive gastrinomas. Our scans revealed somatostatin avid liver metastases. Interestingly, the scan also very clearly confirmed the ocular/orbital disease. Orbital radiotherapy and chemotherapy were recommended.

**KEIR E LEWIS**

**PAUL B ROGERS**

Department of Clinical Oncology

**JOHN HUNGERFORD**

Department of Ocular Oncology

**KEITH E BRITTON**

Department of Nuclear Medicine

**P NICHOLAS PLOWMAN**

Department of Clinical Oncology, St Bartholomew’s Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

Correspondence to: Dr Plowman.

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Retinal neovascularisation in Goltz syndrome (focal dermal hypoplasia)

**EDITOR,—**This is the first reported case of Goltz syndrome with documented peripheral retinal non-perfusion with subsequent retinal neovascularisation and vitreous haemorrhage. In the eye this represents solely a mesodermal disturbance compared with the more common cases which present with both mesodermal and neuroectodermal disturbances, such as coloboma or microphthalmia.

**CASE REPORT**

Goltz syndrome was diagnosed shortly after birth in a girl with linear atrophies of atropic skin following Blaschko’s lines on the trunk and symmetrical syndactyly of the third to fourth fingers and second to third toes. Initial ophthalmic screening revealed no ocular anomalies. Dental screening revealed the congenital absence of one deciduous incisor. Screening of the parents, brother, and sister was negative for skin, skeletal, and ocular anomalies. When she was aged 5 years, routine ophthalmic review showed a vision of right eye 6/9 and left eye 6/5, with a minor right myopia.

Age 7 years, she complained of a brief episode of photopsia and floaters in the right eye. Vision was right eye 6/20 and left eye 6/6. Examination revealed a right vitreous haemorrhage, telangiectatic vessels temporal to the macula, and temporal equatorial fibrotic vessels and haemorrhage. Fluorescein angiography showed bilateral peripheral retinal non-perfusion and right temporal retino-vascularisation (see Figs 1 and 2). This was treated conservatively for 2 years; however, after six bleeds within 3 months indirect retinal photo-coagulation to the areas of non-perfusion was performed with subsequent new vessel regression within weeks.

**COMMENT**

Focal dermal hypoplasia is a rare disorder of ectodermal and mesodermal dysplasia originally described by Goltz et al.. It is characterised by congenital atropic skin changes often associated with herniation of the subcutaneous fat; skeletal anomalies, in particular syndactyly, polydactyly, or adactyly as well as scoliosis, kyphosis, spina bifida occulta, rib and vertebral anomalies, and dental anomalies, especially hypodontia.

Ocular anomalies occur in 40% of cases. Coloboma have been reported in one third of cases, then less frequently microphthalmia, strabismus, nystagmus, and ectopia lentis. Other reported ocular anomalies include anophthalmia, corneal clouding, aniridia, heterochromia, and optic atrophy. Rarely ectropion and ptosis may occur as well as lid margin or conjunctival papillomatous lesions (histologically angiofibromas). Only one case of cloudy vitreous has been reported. This was in association with microphthalmia, aniridia, and lens subluxation. Retinal schizophrenia or hypopigmentation was reported in Goltz’s original case report. No attempt was made to explain these findings. In our case, there was peripheral retinal non-perfusion and temporal retinal telangiectasia with subsequent neovascularisation and vitreous haemorrhage.

The differential diagnosis of retinal vascular anomalies associated with skin lesions includes incontinentia pigmenti (IP) and Cockayne’s syndrome. Although focal skin atrophy may occur in IP, the initial skin lesions are vesicles and bullae which may later become pigmented macules. The skin lesions in Cockayne’s syndrome are pigmented scars due to light sensitivity and trauma. Neither syndrome is associated with digital anomalies. The genetic anomaly in Goltz syndrome remains to be determined. Most cases are sporadic. It is generally thought to be X-linked dominant with lethality in males, like IP; however, 9% of cases are male. These are proposed to be the result of half chromatid mutations. Deletions in the region of the chromosome Xp22.1 are a suggested site, though these must be differentiated from the deletions seen in microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS) and that of microphthalmia, dermal aplasia, and sclerocornea (MIDAS), which are now considered to be distinct entities. The wide variation in severity of expression is thought to be due to mosaicism.

A A S Dunlop MD

Correspondence to: Dr A A S Dunlop, 66 King Street, Newcastle, NSW 2300. Accepted for publication 19 April 1999

pressure was recorded at less than 4 mm Hg. Fundal examination revealed evidence of a retinal tear although details were obscured by a diffuse vitreous haemorrhage. An ultrasound examination showed a vitreous haemorrhage and large retinal tear but no evidence of a scleral perforation.

An examination under anaesthesia performed the following day confirmed that there was no scleral rupture and indirect ophthalmoscopy confirmed the findings of diffuse vitreous haemorrhage and a retinal tear.

At the 2 week postoperative clinic visit, visual acuity had improved to 6/18. There was 2+ cells in the anterior chamber and the posterior segment findings were an intragel haemorrhage, and large retinal tear but no evidence of a retinal detachment.

Four months later, the best corrected visual acuity was 6/36. The anterior chamber activity had settled; the intraocular pressure was 24 mm Hg. Posterior segment findings were an intragel haemorrhage and retinitis sclopetaria with no evidence of retinal detachment.

Specular microscopic findings of corneal deposits in patients with Biettis's crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy

**Editor,—**In 1937, Bietti1 first described three cases of tapetoretinal degeneration characterised by yellowish glistening retinal crystals, tapetoretinal degeneration with choroidal sclerosis, and marginal crystalline deposits of the cornea. Although more than 100 cases of crystalline retinopathy have been reported, crystalline deposits of the corneal limbus have been observed in only four out of 52 Japanese patients with crystalline retinopathy. Recently, observation using specular microscopy2,3 has been reported to be useful in detecting crystalline deposits at the limbus of patients with crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy. Therefore, in this study, we examined four patients with crystalline retinopathy using specular microscopy under a "con-surface" mode, which is used for the observation of the corneal surface, and we detected the deposits at the limbus.

Twelve months after the initial specular microscopic examination, we re-examined the crystalline deposits of two cases. Interestingly, the changes in the locations and forms of the crystalline deposits in the corneal limbus were observed over time (Fig 1). More crystalline associated with road traffic accidents, they are associated with a number of injuries directly attributable to their inflation. Some of these are serious ocular injuries and it is important for ophthalmologists and others involved with trauma cases to be aware of these complications. A full ophthalmic assessment is mandatory in all cases and this should include indentation ophthalmoscopy. A variety of posterior segment injuries have been reported in the literature but this is the first report of retinitis sclopetaria resulting from airbag deployment.

**Correspondence:** Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD

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**Figure 1** Specular microscopic findings. (A) Many crystalline deposits are observed at the limbus. (B) Specular microscopic findings re-examined after 1 year. The change of the locations and forms of crystalline deposit from the same vessels can be seen.

**COMMENT**

Airbags are designed to protect the driver from direct impact from the steering wheel, dashboard, and windscreen. They are designed to inflate in 10 ms in response to sudden deceleration and during deployment, the airbag is propelled out of its storage compartment at speeds of more than 100 mph.4 Following inflation the airbag deflates slowly within seconds.

Facial and ocular injuries associated with airbags have been reported in the literature. Skin abrasions, burns, and eyelid ecchymoses are the most common facial injuries. Reported ocular injuries include orbital fractures, keratitis, corneal abrasions, hyphaemmas, angle recession, and lens subluxation. In the posterior segment, vitreous and retinal haemorrhages, commotio retinae, retinal tears and dialyses, and choroidal ruptures have been reported.4 5 To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of retinitis sclopetaria secondary to airbag inflation.

Although airbags have clearly been shown to reduce serious morbidity and mortality deposited in the patients with more advanced retinopathy. It is supposed that corneal deposits and fundus deposits are essentially the same and it is suggested that crystalline retinopathy is caused by systemic abnormality. Although the exact pathogenesis of crystalline deposits is still uncertain, it is possible that destroyed fibroblasts appear to glitter or fibroblasts with crystalline-like deposits look glittering during breakdown. Further biochemical or cellular biological studies are needed to clarify these possibilities.
Surgically removed submacular nematode

SHUICHI YAMAMOTO, MASANORI HAYASHI and SHINOBU TAKEUCHI

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