Orbital varices and orbital wall defects

Orbital varices are a vascular hamartoma typified by a plexus of low pressure, low flow, thin walled and distensible vessels that intermingle with the normal orbital vessels.\textsuperscript{1–4} If freely communicating with the orbital circulation, engorgement of varices can occur by increasing venous pressure through the Valsalva manoeuvre,\textsuperscript{5} bending posture,\textsuperscript{6} coughing or straining and these, in turn, lead to the clinical characteristics of variable proptosis, intermittent pain, and orbital haemorrhage.\textsuperscript{7–8}

Observation is usually warranted for small lesions, but surgical intervention may be necessary in advanced cases: indications for surgical intervention include non-resolving episodes of thrombosis, severe disfiguring proptosis or displacement of the globe, and optic nerve compression.\textsuperscript{1–3} Surgery can be extremely difficult, as varices are very friable and intimately intermixed with normal orbital structures; there is also a significant risk of visual loss as a result of haemorrhage or optic nerve damage, the latter being generally caused by vascular compromise.\textsuperscript{1–3} The association of orbital venous anomalies with orbital wall defects provides a further source of surgical difficulty because of the close proximity of intracranial structures and the continuity with extraorbital or intracranial venous anomalies.

Case series

The orbital database, at Moorfields Eye Hospital, was used to identify patients with a clinical diagnosis of low pressure orbital varices and their orbital imaging (computed tomography and/or magnetic resonance imaging) was reviewed. Images were examined for evidence of orbital expansion, osseous defects of the orbit, nose or sinuses, and anomalies of the frontal lobes. Patients who had either orbital or intracranial surgery before the date of imaging were excluded from the investigation.

The clinical diagnosis of orbital varices was identified in 310 patients, and imaging was available for 223 patients (72%). Six patients with previous orbital or intracranial surgery were excluded and nine cases (4%) had associated anomalies of the neighbouring orbital walls (table 1). Four cases (patients 1–4) were associated with “pitting” of the orbital wall secondary to orbital varices (fig 1A). Another three cases (patients 6–8) were associated with enlarged superior orbital fissure and two cases (patients 5 and 9) with multiple orbital roof “defects” (fig 1B). Orbital varices were present up to the dural space in two cases (patients 4 and 5), and involved the frontal lobe parenchyma in one case (patient 6; fig 1C, D).
Table 1  Characteristics of nine patients with orbital wall defects in association with orbital varices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Side</th>
<th>Age (years) at referral</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Main location of orbital varix</th>
<th>Expansion of orbit</th>
<th>Absent walls</th>
<th>Ethmoid</th>
<th>Cribriform</th>
<th>Frontal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Medial and extensive superomedial</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Small roof defect</td>
<td>Pitted bone and smaller ethmoid</td>
<td>L-low R-normal</td>
<td>Dips low at cribriform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Extracanal–medial</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Tiny thin area SNQ</td>
<td>Pitted bone and smaller ethmoid</td>
<td>L-low R-normal</td>
<td>Low frontal lobe over cribriform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Superomedial</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Pitted roof and small defects of veins</td>
<td>Compressed</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Panorbit intraconal and extracanal</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Post superior wall and pitted bone</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Panorbit intraconal and extracanal</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Posterior orbital roof</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Varices up to dural space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Posterior intraconal, superior extracanal</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Enlarged SOF</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Posterior intracanal</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Enlarged SOF and small lateral wall</td>
<td>Slightly smaller</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Panorbit intraconal and extracanal</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Very enlarged SOF, patchy SNQ defects posteriorly</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Extracanal–superior (large)</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Posterior orbital roof</td>
<td>Slightly smaller</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNQ = superonasal quadrant; SOF = superior orbital fissure.

One patient (case 2) had thinning of the superonasal quadrant of the orbital wall, nasal orbital wall pitting, and a low ipsilateral cribriform plate, when first seen at age 21 in 1981 (fig 1E, F). On repeat imaging 20 years later (2001), this patient was noted to have developed proptosis, a defect in the superonasal wall of the orbit, and a new mid-line nasal encephalocele (fig 1J, L).

Comment

Fine cut (5 mm) orbital CT scans easily delineate varices and diagnostic phleboliths, which occur from thrombus formation, and provide an excellent natural contrast between the related mass, with some patchy contrast which occur from thrombus formation, delineate varices and diagnostic phleboliths, embarking on surgical intervention for orbital wall defects (4%) in our series may, therefore, be a relatively unreported, associations before the apparent incidence of orbital wall defects is well recognised in some cases, especially in childhood lesions.

Several factors may have biased the study population: many are symptomatic patients, having been referred from other ophthalmic units in consideration for surgical intervention. The apparent incidence of orbital wall defects (4%) in our series may, therefore, be a slight overestimate. In a minority of patients, orbital varices may be associated with orbital wall defects, and such defects may, eventually, lead to an enophthalmic formation. Clinicians should be aware of these, apparently unreported, associations before embarking on surgical intervention for orbital varices.

References


Previous biopsies had revealed conjunctival dysplasia. On examination, the tumour of the ocular and tarsal conjunctiva of the lower lid covered the entire corneal surface (fig 1A).

Patient 2

A 90 year old patient presented with a 2 year history of an extensive conjunctival papillomatous tumour of the left eye covering three quarters of the cornea with visual acuity of light perception. A full thickness biopsy was performed.

Both patients underwent orbital exenteration including removal of the eyelids. Histopathologically the focal invasive, completely removed tumour of patient 1 grew in a papillomatous manner. The tumour cells of the conjunctival neoplasm showed strongly enlarged nuclei with prominent nucleoli, and formed cohesive units with intercellular bridges (fig 1B).

The exophytic tumour of patient 2 was predominantly intraepithelial with foci of subepithelial invasion. Focal tumour anaplasia was observed in the otherwise moderately differentiated tumour with squamous cell differentiation.

Immunostaining of both specimens revealed strong p53 (monoclonal mouse-anti-human p53-protein DO-7, Dako) overexpression (>26% of epithelium cells) and low expression of p21 (<6% of epithelium cells) of the invasive region of the tumour indicating an inactivating p53 mutation (fig 1C). While in patient 1 expression for p53 was found in all epithelial layers, in patient 2 it was expressed suprabasally. In contrast, both p53 and p21 showed moderate reactivity in the dysplastic region up to the middle layer of the tumour (fig 1D). In the apical layer epithelium cells were occasionally p21 positive.

Immunostaining for HPV (HPV screening antibody, Virofem Diagnostica, Germany) was positive in patient 1.

Exenteration of invasive conjunctival squamous cell carcinoma

Ocular surface squamous neoplasia (OSSN) includes conjunctival intraepithelial neoplasia with dysplasia, carcinoma in situ and conjunctival squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Beside ultraviolet B irradiation identified as a risk factor, OSSN is associated with human papillomavirus type 16 and 18 (HPV-16, HPV-18).1,2 The exact role and possible prognostic value of p53 overexpression is unclear and little is known about its expression during the development of conjunctival SCC.

Case reports

Patient 1

A 75 year old man was referred with a 10 year history of a conjunctival mass of the left eye with visual acuity of hand movement.

Comment

The high recurrence rate of OSSN of 9–64% after resection seems to depend on the histopathological grade and status of surgical margins.3 HPV-16 and HPV-18 are considered
to be possible cofactors involved in initiation and early progression of OSSN.** They observed that both of the presented tumours were clinically papillomatous, immunostaining for HPV was positive only in patient 1.

The tumour suppressor gene p53 has been found to be inactivated in over 50% of human cancers. In OSSN, overexpression of p53 has been previously reported in some SCC of the conjunctiva.** In the SCC of our patients, p53 overexpression indicating inactivating p53 mutations were observed only in the invasive part of the tumour, but not in the carcinoma in situ. While Dushku and coworkers assumed that p53 mutations could be an early event in tumour development consistent with ultraviolet radiation, our findings clearly indicate that mutations of p53 are a late event that occur with disease progression, as observed with other solid tumours.** Karcioğlu and associates found a correlation between p53 overexpression and unfavourable clinical course.** In contrast, Aoki and colleagues found no expression for p53 in SCC but positive staining in dysplasia.

Our results of two exenterated advanced stages of SCC emphasize the necessity to remove dysplastic OSSN completely to prevent progression to invasive carcinomas. Identification of inactivating p53 mutations may indicate an increased risk for invasiveness. Therefore immunohistochemical analysis of biopsy specimen may help in the management of these tumours.

Figure 1 Patient 1. (A) Extensive papillomatous tumour, subtotally covering the corneal surface of the left eye. Nodular thickening of the lower eyelid indicates eyelid involvement. (B) Histological appearance. Papillomatous pattern of the large epithelial lesion with focal invasion above the cornea. Subepithelially, inflammatory cells and some dilated vessels (haematoxylin and eosin, original magnification, ×2.5). (C) p53, showing strong diffuse reactivity in invasive region indicating an inactivating p53 mutation (original magnification, ×10). (D) p53, showing moderate expression predominantly in the suprabasal layers in dysplastic conjunctiva of the same specimen (original magnification, ×10).

References

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The brother’s funduscopy revealed multiple bilateral, extrafoveal pseudotumoral white choroidal masses (fig 2, top). The son’s funduscopy revealed plaque-like and only slightly elevated lesions seen in the midperiphery (fig 2, bottom). Ultrasonograms confirmed the calcific nature of these lesions.

Comment
In 1997, Shields et al described a case of sclerochoroidal calcifications in a normocalcaemic patient who had chondrocalcinosis.

We first describe a familial case of sclerochoroidal calcifications in a normocalcaemic patient and family members. The need to perform ophthalmological examination in patients and family members of patients affected by chondrocalcinosis.

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References

Whole body PET/CT imaging for detection of metastatic choroidal melanoma

Metastatic choroidal melanoma typically presents in the liver. Therefore, liver enzyme assays are the most common haematological evaluation performed after treatment.

In 1985, the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study required periodic medical evaluations including a physical examination, liver function studies, a complete blood count, and a chest x ray. If liver enzymes exceeded 1.5 times normal, computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen was required. If low attenuation hepatic nodules suggested metastatic disease, fine needle aspiration biopsy of the liver tumours provided cytopathological confirmation.

Positron emission tomography (PET) is a molecular imaging technique that uses radiolabelled molecules to image metabolic activity in vivo. When whole body PET was combined with computed radiographic tomography (CT), PET/CT put anatomy and function on the same page making practical a new era of physiological imaging.

This study examines the ability of positron emission tomography combined with computed tomography (PET/CT) to allow for detection of previously occult metastatic melanoma.

Case report
A 77 year old woman presented with a 15.4×15 mm wide and 13.2 mm high collar button shaped choroidal melanoma with a large secondary retinal detachment in her right eye. Her preoperative medical evaluation
proved negative. She was treated by enucleation.

Two years later a follow up medical evaluation revealed elevated liver function studies (table 1) and a chest x-ray showed a pleural effusion. CT of the abdomen with contrast revealed multiple low attenuation hepatic foci consistent with metastatic melanoma.

A PET/CT was requested. Fifty minutes after intravenous administration of 15.2 mCi of fluordeoxyglucose, whole body PET/CT imaging revealed enlarged para-aortic lymph nodes and a subcutaneous nodule in the abdominal wall (fig 1). The CT portion of the PET/CT also revealed two 3 mm nodules in the upper lobe of the right lung (too small to be visualised by PET imaging). PET imaging was able to reveal multiple bony metastasis that were not seen on the CT portion (fig 1). Both CT and PET showed a large liver metastasis.

**Comment**

In this case, whole body PET/CT was found to be capable of uncovering metastases not seen with abdominal CT alone. This led us away from considering regional perfusion of the liver, hepatic resection, and towards systemic treatment. Therefore, when PET/CT identifies extrahepatic involvement, it can have a significant impact on the management of patients with metastatic choroidal melanoma.

PET/CT could also be used for initial staging. Early detection of occult metastases...
offers the potential to avoid ineffective and excessive enucleations, radioactive plaques, proton irradiation, eye wall resections, or laser treatment. Local therapies would be abandoned in favour of systemic treatments.

Another issue related to PET/CT is cost. Up to five times more than CT of the abdomen, PET/CT is only covered (Medicare) for melanoma staging/restaging when the stage of the cancer remains in doubt after completion of conventional imaging (or if the clinical management would differ depending on the PET findings). Since PET/CT revealed extrahepatic foci in this case, it changed our clinical approach. There is little doubt about the improved ability of PET/CT to detect lesions; the real issue is cost and if the results will change outcomes.

This study goes one step further than CT, MRI, or PET alone. By combining whole body PET and CT, this examination joins anatomy and function in one examination (fig 1). The relative efficacy of PET/CT to locate metastases should be evaluated within the framework of a prospective study.

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References


Trans-Tenon’s retrobulbar triamcinolone infusion for small choroidal neovascularisation

Intravitreal and sub-Tenon’s corticosteroids are being evaluated for the treatment of choroidal neovascularisation (CNV). We reported on the efficacy of triamcinolone acetonide administered as a trans-Tenon’s retrobulbar infusion (triamcinolone infusion) in reducing inflammation in uveitic eyes. Here we evaluated the same treatment in eyes with small subfoveal CNV.

Case reports

Triamcinolone infusion was performed in 22 eyes of 22 patients with subfoveal CNV of greatest diameter less than or equal to 1 disc diameter (DD). The diagnoses were age related macular degeneration (AMD) in 14 eyes, idiopathic CNV in four eyes, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) in three eyes, and punctate inner choroidopathy (PIC) in one eye. One AMD eye had undergone ablative argon laser photocoagulation for CNV previously, but no other eyes had received previous treatment. The median post-triamcinolone infusion follow up was 7.5 months (range 4–27 months).

Pretreatment fluorescein angiography (FA) revealed predominantly classic CNV in 12 eyes and predominantly occult CNV in 10 eyes. Records were reviewed retrospectively and did not require institutional review board approval. Informed consent was obtained before each procedure.

The patient’s eye was prepared with povidone-iodine and sterile drapes applied. After topical anaesthesia, conjunctiva and Tenon’s capsule were incised in the inferotemporal quadrant. A 23 gauge curved blunt cannula approximately 2.1 cm in length (‡HS-276A, Handaya Co, Ltd, Tokyo, Japan) was inserted to the hub into sub-Tenon’s space and 20 mg (0.5 ml) triamcinolone acetonide (Bristol Pharmaceutical, KK, Tokyo, Japan) was infused. The wound was left unsutured and 0.5% levofloxacin was instilled topically three times a day for 1 week.

Onset of CNV fibrosis was observed in 14 eyes (64%) by 3 months post-triamcinolone infusion (fig 1). Rates of fibrosis were 50% (7/14 eyes) for AMD, 100% (4/4 eyes) for idiopathic CNV, 67% (2/3 eyes) for PCV, and 100% (1/1 eye) for PIC. Fibrosis did not correlate with CNV size or lesion composition. FA performed at 3 months showed decreased lesion leakage in 12 eyes (59%), no change in five eyes (23%), and increased leakage in five eyes (23%). Best corrected visual acuity (VA) at 3 months for all eyes improved by ≥0.2 logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution (logMAR) in four eyes (18%), remained unchanged in 13 eyes (59%), and worsened by ≥0.2 logMAR in five eyes (23%). The median decimal VA for all eyes was 0.30 before treatment (range 0.08–1.0) and 0.24 at 3 months after treatment (range 0.05–1.2). Of the 14 eyes with AMD, the VA at 3 months improved by ≥0.2 logMAR in one eye (7%), remained

Figure 1 Colour fundus photographs and fluorescein angiography late images of an eye in a 65 year old patient with age related macular degeneration and small subfoveal choroidal neovascularisation before (A; B; best corrected visual acuity 0.3) and 3 months after triamcinolone infusion (C; D; best corrected visual acuity 0.7).
that may contribute to an angiogenic microenvironment, thereby decreasing influx of serum proteins.

Neovascularisation induced by laser trauma to the retina was recently shown to be inhibited by triamcinolone acetonide, \textit{in vivo} and \textit{in vitro}.\textsuperscript{8} Triamcinolone acetonide has been specifically shown to inhibit basic fibroblast growth factor-induced migration and tube formation of choroidal microvascular endothelial cells.\textsuperscript{7} Furthermore, triamcinolone acetonide inhibits choroidal neovascularisation induced by laser trauma to a rat model.\textsuperscript{9} Finally, triamcinolone acetonide may decrease vascular permeability, thereby decreasing influx of serum proteins that may contribute to an angiogenic microenvironment.\textsuperscript{8} Long-term follow-up and greater numbers of cases in a randomised clinical trial are needed to confirm these results.

**Comment**

This interventional case series shows that trans-Tenon’s retrobulbar infusion of triamcinolone acetonide resulted in lesion fibrosis in the majority of eyes with small CNV, efficacy being best for idiopathic CNV or CNV related to PIC. The mechanism of action of triamcinolone acetonide in inhibiting CNV growth probably involves several pathways. The effect of corticosteroids in inhibiting inflammatory cells that participate in the neovascular response probably has a prominent role.\textsuperscript{3} Triamcinolone acetonide has specifically been shown to inhibit basic fibroblast growth factor-induced migration and tube formation of choroidal microvascular endothelial cells.\textsuperscript{7} Furthermore, triamcinolone acetonide inhibits choroidal neovascularisation induced by laser trauma to a rat model.\textsuperscript{9} Finally, triamcinolone acetonide may decrease vascular permeability, thereby decreasing influx of serum proteins that may contribute to an angiogenic microenvironment.\textsuperscript{8} Long-term follow-up and greater numbers of cases in a randomised clinical trial are needed to confirm these results.

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References


**Retinoblastoma in a child conceived by in vitro fertilisation**

As the number of infants born through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) grows, there is increased interest regarding the long term effects of IVF and other assisted reproduction techniques on such offspring. Recent reports have noted cancer in children born after IVF or fertility drug use (table 1).\textsuperscript{1} In 2001, retinoblastoma was reported to occur in a child born through IVF in Israel.\textsuperscript{2} Since then, an additional report documented four cases from the Netherlands.\textsuperscript{3} Here we add a sixth case and the first from the United States. Of these children four had unilateral retinoblastoma and two bilateral disease (table 2).

During 2002, a 16 month old child was referred to The New York Eye Cancer Center with no known family history of eye disease. She had a blind painful right eye with neovascular glaucoma. Intraocular pressures were 35 mm Hg in the right eye, and 14 mm Hg in the left. Examination of the anterior chamber of the right eye revealed cells on the corneal endothelium and iris neovascularisation. While ophthalmoscopic examination of the right eye was not possible because of opaque media, ultrasonography revealed a densely calcified mass in the posterior pole (fig 1).

Computed radiographic tomography demonstrated tumour calcification with no evidence of extrascleral extension.\textsuperscript{4} Post-mortem histopathology confirmed the diagnosis of retinoblastoma.\textsuperscript{5} The parents did not approve genetic studies of the child.

Further history revealed that this child was born through IVF with a donor egg and the father’s sperm. In order to carry the child, the postmenopausal mother received oestrogen and progesterone before and during gestation.

**Comment**

Several theories of IVF related carcinogenesis exist. Prenatal exposure to fertility drugs may initiate cancer of the foetal embryo or parental germ cells. However, an evidence based association between IVF treatments and cancer development (in the women taking the drugs) has not been established.\textsuperscript{6} Another possible mechanism has been associated with the culture medium used in the IVF test tube. Experiments on mice suggest that subtle changes in the ingredients of the culture media may alter the activity of imprinted genes.\textsuperscript{7} Like fertility drugs, it remains to be seen whether altered gene imprinting can lead to cancers such as retinoblastoma.

A third possible mechanism of carcinogenesis includes inheritance of genetic defects from gametes and embryo trauma performed during routine intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) type IVF.

The most likely explanation for an increased risk of secondary carcinogenesis is that the population of patients seeking IVF is dissimilar to the general population. Patients seeking IVF are older or have medical problems that interfere with fertility. This poses a problem with any study other than a randomised prospective trial that compares babies from untreated infertility patients who become pregnant versus babies from infertile patients who become pregnant using IVF. To date all studies published are observations of clusters of disease with the suggestion that there is a cause and effect relation.\textsuperscript{8}

**Table 1** Anomalies and cancers reported in offspring of IVF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuroectodermal</td>
<td>White et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumours</td>
<td>Kobayashi et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroblastoma</td>
<td>Kramer et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Note: associated</td>
<td>Michalek et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with the use of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fertility drugs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retinoblastoma</td>
<td>Moll et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatoblastoma</td>
<td>Melamed et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear cell kidney</td>
<td>Toren et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sarcoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphoma</td>
<td>Kobayashi et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transposition of</td>
<td>Berg et al\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the great arteries</td>
<td>Lancaster\textsuperscript{3}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neural tube defects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several types of congenital anomalies and cancers have been reported in the literature, primarily in the form of case reports. The relation between IVF and these cancers is not definitively established.

**Table 2** Retinoblastoma in children born through IVF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Sex and age of diagnosis (months)</th>
<th>Eye</th>
<th>Cause of subfertility</th>
<th>DNA 13q14 analysis</th>
<th>Assisted reproductive technique</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anteb y et al</td>
<td>NR, 30</td>
<td>Unilateral</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
<td>IVF with donor sperm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moll et al</td>
<td>F, 38</td>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Unexplained</td>
<td>Exon 8 mutated</td>
<td>IVF with 6 courses of clomid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moll et al</td>
<td>M, 15</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Maternal cause</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>IVF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moll et al</td>
<td>F, 24</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Unexplained</td>
<td>Intron 3 mutated</td>
<td>IVF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moll et al</td>
<td>M, 8.5</td>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Unexplained</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>IVF with 8 AI attempts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This report</td>
<td>F, 32</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Paternal cause</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>IVF with ICSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F, 16</td>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Maternal cause</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>IVF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NR, not reported; AI, artificial insemination; ICSI, intracytoplasmic sperm injection.
Retinoblastoma is the most common intraocular cancer of childhood and affects approximately 300 children each year in the United States. Retinoblastoma is a manifestation of a de novo deletion or mutation of the q14 band of chromosome 13, occurring as a "second hit" during embryogenesis or the result of two hit deletions in retinal cells. In that it could be the result of chromosomal breakage and deletions in IVF born children, surveillance of retinoblastoma incidence in children born through IVF is warranted.1

With the advent of assisted reproductive technology (ART) in 1977, American couples have increasingly turned to such treatments to overcome fertility problems. Nationwide, 99,629 procedures were performed in 2000 by ART. In that year, fertility treatments in which the egg and sperm are handled in the laboratory resulted in 25,228 live births and 35,025 infants. This report expands information on geography and determinants of both ART and multiple births (see also reference 6). Reference 6 is a report on geography and determinants of both ART and multiple births (see also reference 6).

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The authors have no proprietary interest in any material mentioned in this study.

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Figure 1 Photographs of the anterior segment of left eye (A) and right eye (B) obtained with an operative laser microscope after peripheral iridectomy. The photographs show shallow anterior chambers and persistent pupillary membranes with iridoidal vessels (A), and corneal opacity (B).
of the lens was also attached to the corneal endothelium (fig 2). Choroidal detachment and a retrolental mass were not observed by B-mode ultrasound sonography (fig 2).

Peripheral iridectomy was performed bilaterally (fig 1). Postoperatively, her peripheral anterior chamber deepened bilaterally although the lens in the right eye was still adherent to the corneal endothelium. Indirect ophthalmoscopy revealed normal cup to disc ratio. The IOP fell to normal levels bilaterally.

Comment

Shallow anterior chambers in ROP patients are known to be caused by various factors—for example, choroidal detachment after excessive photocoagulation, development of retrolental mass, or relative increment in lens thickness, but usually the cause of shallow anterior chamber cannot be determined. In our case, the development of hyphaema after photocoagulation induced posterior synechia, and the iris bombe followed. The displacement of the anterior chamber structures was induced by the forward movement of the iris lens diaphragm in the right eye, and the ocular fragility in premature baby may explain this deformity.

Vitreous haemorrhage is known to occur in 7.9% of ROP cases after photocoagulation. In our case, there is a possibility that the hyphaema was derived from vitreous haemorrhage. Another possibility is an accidental photocoagulation of persistent pupillary membranes and/or iridocorneal vessels caused the hyphaema. We are not aware of such morphological changes after photocoagulation for ROP.

ACG that occurs immediately after retinal photocoagulation in ROP patients is rare, but is still an important complication. In ROP patients, the lens and its ligament are weak, and therefore not only ACG but also lens displacement occurred. It is important that we be aware of the possible development of ACG following retinal photocoagulation for ROP.

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Sequential treatment of central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) remains disappointing despite recently proposed intraocular surgical techniques. We previously introduced the use of intravitreal tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) for acute central retinal vein occlusion in 1999. Numerous investigators have confirmed its safety and suggested that it may have a beneficial role in the treatment of acute central retinal vein occlusion.

Although some studies in rabbits suggest the rabbit retina is not permeable to TPA,
investigators found the porcine retina was, in fact, permeable to TPA.\textsuperscript{8} Our clinical experience with intravitreal TPA in humans with CRVO and large submacular haemorrhages strongly suggests that intravitreal TPA does cross the human retina. Greenberg\textit{ et al.}\textsuperscript{4} were the first to report the possible beneficial effect of intravitreal steroids on patients with chronic CRVO.\textsuperscript{9} This report describes a sequential treatment strategy for patients with CRVO who present early in the course of their disease and can be performed in the office while avoiding the risks of vitrectomy. It utilises intravitreal TPA in the acute phase of the vein occlusion to attempt clot lysis, and then treats any remaining vascular leakage with intravitreal triamcinolone.

Case report

A 59 year old obese, hypertensive flight instructor presented with a sudden decrease in vision for 7 days in the right eye. Vision was 20/400 right eye and 20/20 left eye. The patient was diagnosed with an acute CRVO in the right eye (fig 1A). The left eye was normal. After being advised of the risks and benefits, the patient elected to undergo intravitreal injection of TPA (75 mg). Thirteen days later, the patient noted marked improvement in vision with 20/60 vision. Thirty four days after the injection, the patient’s vision was 20/30 (fig 1B).

Six months after intravitreal TPA injection, the vision remained 20/30, but the patient still complained of metamorphopsia and blurry vision despite resolution of other findings of CRVO (fig 1C). Fluorescein angiogram (FA) revealed persistent macular oedema (fig 2A). Optical coherence tomography (OCT) showed the foveal thickness to be 331 m with mild intraretinal oedema. After being advised of the risks and the benefits, the patient then underwent injection of intravitreal triamcinolone (4 mg).

Six weeks after the intravitreal triamcinolone, the FA returned to normal and OCT showed decreased foveal thickness from 331 m to 291 m. The patient reported a significant improvement in vision with decreased metamorphopsia. Vision was 20/25 with no late leakage on the fluorescein angiogram (fig 2B).

Comment

To our knowledge, this represents the first published case of CRVO treated sequentially with intravitreal TPA for the acute phase and intravitreal triamcinolone for the chronic phase. TPA is a drug that must be used early in the course of thrombus formation to be effective. We do not recommend its use for patients with chronic symptoms. Intravitreal steroids appear to decrease the blood-retinal barrier breakdown and macular oedema, but recurrent oedema may occur since the steroids do not appear to affect the thrombus itself.

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Severe post-laser suprachoroidal haemorrhaging in a diabetic patient receiving anticoagulants

Although the aetiology is not well understood, exsudative suprachoroidal haemorrhaging (ESH) is the most severe complication associated with intraocular surgery. Anticoagulants are considered a risk factor for spontaneous suprachoroidal haemorrhaging in cases with high myopia, age related macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy.\textsuperscript{10} However, ESH post photoocoagulation is extremely rare regardless of anticoagulant therapy. We have experienced a severe case of post-laser ESH correlated with anticoagulant therapy, which resulted in irreversible visual disturbance.

Case report

A 70 year old woman was diagnosed with pre-proliferative diabetic retinopathy based on fluorescein angiographic examinations. Two months before diagnosis, she noticed a sudden decrease in visual loss to hand movements in slit lamp examinations, the retina seemed to be detached, expulsive suprachoroidal haemorrhage was also noted. She was advised to proceed as soon as the anticoagulant was stopped, microhaematuria was also found. Blood examination revealed blood sugar 167 mg/dl; platelet number 179 000; and bleeding time 5 minutes. Although surgery was planned to proceed as soon as the anticoagulant was washed out, her right eye lost all light perception before treatment.

Comment

We have described a case of ESH after laser photocoagulation in a patient receiving anticoagulant therapy. Laser photocoagulation is known as an effective treatment for various ocular diseases and is a widely used, non-incision surgical procedure. However, a number of complications have been reported, with some citing an irreversible visual disturbance.\textsuperscript{6} On the other hand, anticoagulant therapy is prevalent after cardiac/brain infarctions, which necessitate a long term coagulation system management. In the present case, the PT INR was extremely prolonged (a respected value of 2–3 is
appropriate for post-cardiac infarction). Presumably, choroidal microbleeding initiated by photoacoagulation persisted because of an overly suppressed coagulation system; blood pooled in the choroidal space, which assumed an ESH. To our knowledge there is only one other similar case reported by Khairallah et al. that showed post-laser choroidal haematoma in a diabetic patient treated with anticoagulant. Even though ESH incidence is low, extreme caution must be exercised when performing laser therapy in patients using anticoagulants, because of potentially serious outcomes. An age of 65 years or more, history of stroke, history of gastrointestinal bleeding, a serious morbid condition (recent myocardial infarction, renal insufficiency, or severe anaemia), and atrial fibrillation are five high risk factors for major bleeding in outpatients treated with warfarin. If possible, preoperative coagulation system examinations are recommended for high risk patients receiving anticoagulant treatments.

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regimens with reported efficacy including a 6 month regimen of rifampicin (with streptomycin also given in the initial phase only) for active tuberculous. Furthermore, the WHO recommendations are for active extraocular tuberculosis that has been diagnosed by specimen examination or strong clinical evidence, and give no recommendations for latent infection. As we have previously reported in a series on intraocular tuberculosis, systemic examination failed to identify a focus of active tuberculosis in the majority of our patients, and we have come to suspect that the uveitis we observed may be an immune response to latent tuberculosis antigen sequestered elsewhere. Therefore, the patients we described were given a diagnosis of “presumed intraocular tuberculosis,” that is, with uveitis presumed to be related to the Mycobacterium tuberculosis organism. Furthermore, we would like to clarify that in the cases of presumed ocular tuberculosis that received trans-Tenon’s retrobulbar triamcinolone injection, this treatment was judged to be effective in two of three eyes. Regardless, since the focus of active or latent tuberculosis was never identified in our patients, a two drug regimen of isoniazid and rifampicin was used as a therapeutic trial for antituberculosis therapy. A similar therapeutic trial for ocular tuberculosis, albeit with isoniazid alone, has been previously advocated in Japan by Ishihara and Ohno. With regard to the second comment, among the 16 patients who were receiving some form of systemic immunosuppressive therapy, we did not notice any difference in outcome when compared to patients who were not on immunosuppressive therapy. In other words, the efficacy of trans-Tenon’s retrobulbar triamcinolone infusion was the same. However, we suspect that the recurrence rate after triamcinolone infusion may be different, and we are currently investigating this possibility.

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Low vision care
The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 49) deals with the problems and management of low vision. For further information please contact: Journal of Community Eye Health, International Resource Centre, International Centre for Eye Health, Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7612 7964; email: Anita.Shih@lshim.ac.uk; online edition: www.jceh.co.uk). Annual subscription (4 issues) UK £28/US$45. Free to developing country applicants.

Elimination of avoidable blindness
The 56th World Health Assembly (WHA) considered the report on the elimination of avoidable blindness (doc A56/26) and urged Member States to: (1) Commit themselves to supporting the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness by setting up a national vision 2020 plan by 2005; (2) Establish a national coordinating committee for Vision 2020, or a national blindness prevention committee to help implement the plan; (3) Implement the plan by 2007; (4) Include effective monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the aim of showing a reduction in the magnitude of avoidable blindness by 2010; (5) To support the mobilisation of resources for eliminating avoidable blindness. The WHO also urged the Director-General to maintain and strengthen WHO’s collaboration with Member States and the partners of the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness as well as aid in the coordination and support of national capability.

4th International Congress on Autoimmunity
The 4th International Congress on Autoimmunity will take place 3–7 November 2004 in Budapest, Hungary. The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is 20 June 2004. Further details: Kenes International Global Congress Organisers and Association Management Services, 17 Rue du Cendrier, PO Box 1726, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland (tel: +41 22 908 0488; fax: +41 22 732 2850; email: autoim04@kenes.com; website: www.kenes.com/autoim04).

XVI International Congress for Eye Research

Glaucosa Society Silver Jubilee Meeting 2004
The Silver Jubilee Meeting and Dinner for the Glaucosa Society will be held on 3 December 2004 at the Royal College of Physicians in Regents Park, London. The meeting will take place between 8.30am and 5pm and the dinner will be held between 6.30pm and 10pm. For further information, please contact: Janet Flowers, Administrator, 29 Quarry Hill, Grays, Essex, RM17 5BT (tel: 01375 383172; e-mail: glausoc@ukiere.freeserve.co.uk).
Exenteration of invasive conjunctival squamous cell carcinoma

R Guthoff, W E Lieb, P Ströbel and A Zettl

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