The achiasmia spectrum: congenitally reduced chiasmal decussation

D A Sami, D Saunders, D A Thompson, I M Russell-Eggitt, K K Nischal, G Jeffery, M Dattani, R A Clement, A Liassis, D S Taylor

Aim: To describe the clinical spectrum of achiasmia, a congenital disorder of reduced relative decussation at the optic chiasm.

Methods: A retrospective case note and patient review of nine children (four boys). Achiasmia was defined by the combination of a characteristic asymmetry of the monocular visual evoked potential (VEP) response to flash and neuroimaging showing reduced chiasmal size.

Results: Three of the children had an associated skull base encephalocele with agenesis of the corpus callosum. In two patients achiasmia was associated with septo-optic dysplasia. Three patients had no neuroimaging abnormalities other than reduced chiasmal size and have no known pituitary dysfunction. One child had multiple physical deformities but the only brain imaging abnormality was reduced chiasmal size.

Conclusions: Some children with disorders of midline central nervous system development, including septo-optic dysplasia and skull base encephaloceles, have congenitally reduced chiasmal decussation. Reduced relative decussation may co-exist with overall chiasmal hypoplasia. Children with an apparently isolated chiasmal decussation deficit may have other subtle neurological findings, but our clinical impression is that most of these children function well.
achiasmia. All of these children had previously been clinically examined and had undergone clinically appropriate neuro-imaging and VEP studies. One patient had died before the start of this study, three were re-examined at routine follow up visits to GOSH, one (who had been previously evaluated at GOSH) was reviewed locally by a paediatric ophthalmologist, and four were reviewed specially at GOSH. Inclusion criteria were presence of nystagmus, VEP documentation of consistent positive contralateral crossed asymmetry to flash, and reduced chiasmal size on neuroimaging. Where appropriate, VEPs and eye movement studies were repeated.

Data on ocular motility, strabismus, refraction, and visual acuity were recorded and the anterior segment and fundi were examined in all cases. Whenever possible, eye movements, fundus photographs, and formal visual fields were recorded. All previous hospital notes were reviewed.

The study was approved by the Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Institute of Child Health (University College London) research ethics committee.

**Electrophysiology**

VEPs to flash were recorded from three occipital electrodes—one placed 2–3 cm above the inion and two placed midway between the inion and mastoid process. Simultaneously, flash electroretinograms were recorded from skin electrodes placed along the inferior eyelid margin.

**Eye movement recording**

Quantitative measurements of eye movements were made with an infrared limbus tracking system (Skalar Medical, Delft, The Netherlands). Horizontal movements were recorded from the right eye and vertical movements were recorded by asking the subjects to fixate additional positions spaced 15 degrees apart vertically and ±5 degrees apart horizontally. Video recordings of eye movements were also made to facilitate interpretation of the quantitative eye movement recordings.

**Table 1 Summary of study patients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case no</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Type*</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Refraction</th>
<th>Visual acuity (logMAR)</th>
<th>Nystagmus</th>
<th>Strabismus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 M</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>RE = -1.50 + 0.50 = 90 LE = 0.00 + 1.00 = 90</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Horizontal</td>
<td>XT small angle†</td>
<td>Right head turn V pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 F</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>RE = 0.00 + 0.50 = 90 LE = 0.00 + 1.00 = 90</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>Horizontal</td>
<td>XT small angle</td>
<td>V pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 F</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>RE = 1.50 sph LE = 1.50 sph</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Minimal rotary nystagmus</td>
<td>ET small angle</td>
<td>Amplitude L≠R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 F</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>RE = 1.00 sph LE = 2.00 sph</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>Rotatory + horizontal</td>
<td>Right XT angle 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 F</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>RE = 3.0 sph LE = 1.0 + 4.0 + 90</td>
<td>Greater than 1.0</td>
<td>Highly variable</td>
<td>Right ET angle 45</td>
<td>Horizontal and vertical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 F</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>RE = -5.00 + 1.00 = 80 LE = -3.50 + 2.50 = 120</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>Seesaw variant: circulatory + disconjugate vertical</td>
<td>No detectable strabismus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 M</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>RE = -0.50 + 1.00 = 90 LE = 0.00 + 0.00 = 90</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>Horizontal</td>
<td>No detectable strabismus</td>
<td>Left beating, rotary component in †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 M</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>RE = -4.50 + 2.00 = 120 LE = -1.50 + 1.00 = 180</td>
<td>Greater than 1.0</td>
<td>Type unclear</td>
<td>Vertical gaze palsy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 M</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>RE = -0.50 + 1.00 = 120 LE = 0.00 + 0.50 = 90</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>Horizontal</td>
<td>No detectable strabismus</td>
<td>Head shake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XT = exotropia; ET = esotropia.

*Type: A = no other midline abnormality on imaging except small chiasm; B = septo-optic dysplasia (optic nerve hypoplasia, hypopituitarism, deficient septum pellucidum); C = skull base encephalocoele + agenesis of the corpus callosum + hypopituitarism.

†Angle of strabismus in prism diptres.

**Neuroimaging**

All previous brain neuroimaging results were reviewed to confirm reduced chiasmal size and to review other associated brain deformities.

**RESULTS**

The case records and clinical examination results of the nine children are shown in table 1. The appearance of the optic nerves and relevant neuroimaging is shown in figs 1–9: fundus photographs were not available for cases 2 and 4 and only one fundus was available for case 9. All patients had a characteristic pattern of monocular VEP asymmetry to a flash of light (the VEPs for case 1 are shown in fig 1I and for case 6 in fig 6G). Three of the children had a skull base encephalocoele and agenesis of the corpus callosum (cases 6, 7 and 8). In two patients achiasmia was associated with septo-optic dysplasia, a combination of absent septum pellucidum, optic nerve hypoplasia, and hypopituitarism (cases 4 and 5). Each child had a different neuroimaging abnormality other than reduced chiasmal size and have no known pituitary dysfunction (cases 1, 2 and 3); however, one had mild Asperger syndrome and one had subclinical epileptiform seizure activity. One child had multiple deformities including microtia, hemifacial microsomia, oesophageal atresia, and hydromecephalus; the only brain imaging abnormality was reduced chiasmal size (case 9).

Corrected acuities varied widely: one eye had 0.1 LogMAR, the others between perception of light and 0.5, 10 eyes had between 0.5 and 0.6. Eight patients had a best corrected binocular acuity of at least 0.6 LogMAR (table 1). All children had normal colour vision as tested with Ishihara colour plates. Stereo acuity as tested with Titmus fly and/or TNO stereo acuity tests was recorded as absent in all patients. No specific pattern of nystagmus was common to the study patients. The sample includes pure horizontal, rotary, and compound rotary or circumrotary and horizontal nystagmus (table 1). Further details can be seen on the video available on the journal website (http://bjo.bmjournals.com/supplemental).

Our patients seem mostly to fall into three subtypes: type A (three patients) with isolated achiasma on neuroimaging,
type B (two patients) with septo-optic dysplasia, and type C (three patients) with skull base encephalocele and agenesis of the corpus callosum (table 1). One patient (case 9) did not fit into any of these groups.

DISCUSSION
Definition and classification of achiasmia

There is probably some chiasmal hypoplasia whenever there is optic nerve hypoplasia. In most of these cases, normal proportions of retinal ganglion cell axons have been directed ipsilaterally and contralaterally but, overall, are fewer in number. The optic chiasm in achiasmia is not just hypoplastic but it has the essential absence or relative lack of crossing fibres; thus, optic nerve hypoplasia and achiasmia may co-exist (figs 5A and B, 6A and B, 7B). The term “achiasmia” may strictly suggest an absence of the chiasm but, for clarity, it is used here to identify the essential abnormality of crossing fibres. Complete absence of the chiasmal structure, often associated with optic nerve aplasia, is thus not achiasmia; the term “chiasmal aplasia” is more appropriate.

The definition of achiasmia is therefore not as strict as NDRFFS (defined above). The criteria for diagnosis are positive contralateral asymmetry of the monocular VEP response to flash (figs 11 and 6G) and neuroimaging showing reduced chiasmal size (figs 1G, 2, 3A and B, 4, 5C, 6E, 8D, and 9B). Although nystagmus was part of the inclusion criteria for this study, it may not be a constant feature of achiasmia—just as the excess decussation in albinism is not inevitably associated with clinical nystagmus.

To our knowledge, four patients (all female) have been reported with NDRFFS. A fifth female has been described with isolated achiasmia but she only has horizontal nystagmus. The male:female ratio in our mixed group of patients with achiasmia is 4:5. One of three patients with isolated chiasmal deficit (our type A) is male (case 1). Another (case 9) who had an isolated small chiasm on neuroimaging but other associated facial and visceral problems is also male.

From our small sample and those in the literature, some general patterns appear to emerge. While the numbers of patients with this rare finding are small, we feel that there may be three main groups of patients with achiasmia:

- **Type A**: reduced decussation with optic nerves of normal appearance on clinical examination. A small chiasm may be the only abnormality on the brain MRI scan. This group appears to overlap with NDRFFS. There may be seesaw or purely horizontal nystagmus, and the visual fields appear to be normal. In our patients, cases 1 and 3 had normal formal visual fields, case 2 (who was 4 years old) had behaviourally normal fields. Abnormal head...
posture, strabismus, and other subtle neurological abnormalities (mild autism in case 1 and subclinical epileptiform activity in case 2) may be present.

- **Type B**: reduced decussation in combination with chiasmal hypoplasia and the midline defects of septo-optic dysplasia, a combination of absent septum pellucidum, optic nerve hypoplasia, and hypopituitarism (cases 4 and 5).

- **Type C**: reduced decussation and chiasmal hypoplasia in association with clefting disorders and encephaloceles of the skull base (cases 6, 7, and 8). Agenesis of the corpus callosum was present in all three of our patients with basal encephaloceles. The association of corpus callosum agenesis, morning glory disc, and optic nerve staphylomas with skull base encephaloceles has been previously reviewed.

One patient in our series (case 9) did not fit into any of the above categories. This child suffered from multiple facial (microtia, hemifacial microsomia), visceral (oesophageal atresia, hydronephrosis), and developmental problems in addition to an isolated small chiasm; the MRI scan was otherwise normal.

**Visual fields in achiasmia**

Congenitally reduced chiasmal decussation need not be associated with visual field defects. The visual field may be

**Figure 2** Case 2 (type A). A 4 year old girl with an isolated chiasmal deficit as the only neuroimaging abnormality. She was noted to have subclinical epileptiform activity. Optic nerve ophthalmoscopy was normal but photography was not possible. Behaviourally, the visual fields were normal and she has achieved all of her developmental milestones.

**Figure 3** Case 3 (type A). A 12 year old girl with normal development and intelligence. (A) Serial coronal T1 weighted MRI scans showing an isolated small chiasm (arrows) through the level of the pituitary gland (pg). (B) More posterior section through the anterior third ventricle. Note the subtle bright vessel signal surrounding the very thin “gull wing" shaped chiasm similar to case 1. (C, right) and (D) The optic discs were normal; there was a small area of myelination inferior on the disc in the right eye. (E) and (F) Automated perimetry (30-2) was normal.

**Figure 4** Case 4 (type B). A 4 year old girl with septo-optic dysplasia. On examination the left optic nerve was smaller than the right. Coronal T1 weighted images through the chiasmatic recess reveal the chiasm to be small and pulled down (arrow). The septum pellucidum is absent (arrowheads). Fundus photography was impossible due to lack of patient cooperation and nystagmus.
abnormal due to optic nerve hypoplasia (case 6, fig 2) but does not necessarily have a bitemporal hemianopia pattern such as that seen with traumatic shearing of the chiasm.30–32 In cases 1 and 3 the appearance of the optic nerves and formal visual field testing were normal (figs 1C and D, 3E and F). The finding of normal visual fields in association with an isolated small chiasm on neuroimaging has been reported previously.15 23 27 A full visual field is consistent with studies of the lateral geniculate body (LGN) in the canine model of isolated achiasmia: misdirected nasal fibres form ipsilateral mirror image maps in those LGN layers that normally would have received nasal fibres from the contralateral eye.33 The optic discs may appear normal in achiasmia.25–27 The size of the optic nerves, density of axons, and total number of axons do not differ between achiasmic mutant and normal dogs, but the area centralis of the achiasmic dogs is smaller and has a lower peak ganglion cell density than that of normal dogs.34

Seesaw nystagmus and achiasmia
Seesaw nystagmus was described by Maddox in 1914.35 There is a conjugate torsional component and a dysconjugate vertical component. Both eyes rotate clockwise and then counterclockwise. The intorting eye rises while the extorting eye falls. However, the definition of seesaw nystagmus has

Figure 5  Case 5 (type B). A 12 year old girl with septo-optic dysplasia. (A) Optic nerve hypoplasia, right eye. (B) Band hypoplasia, left eye. Formal visual fields were not available but the appearances of the left optic disc suggest the likelihood of a left temporal hemianopia. (C) A coronal reformatted CT scan shows the optic nerves (arrows) but fails to reveal a chiasm suggesting that it is small (arrowhead).

Figure 6  Case 6 (type C). Optic nerve hypoplasia in a 10 year old girl. (A) Right optic disc showing mild hypoplasia and inferotemporal pallor. (B) Left optic disc showing possible mild hypoplasia and the suggestion of nasal pallor. (C) Left eye Goldmann visual field (stimulus IIVE) showing constriction, especially superotemporally. (D) Right visual field showing superior constriction consistent with the optic disc findings of inferior pallor. (E) Midline T1 weighted sagittal MRI scan showing absence of the corpus callosum, a large empty sella (es), and a very thin chiasm (arrow) (see fig 1F for a normal corpus callosum). (F) Revised coronal T1 weighted MRI scan showing dragging of optic nerves (arrows) and chiasm into the repaired encephalocele. (G) VEP showing contralateral crossed asymmetry which, in combination with optic disc, visual fields, and MRI findings, demonstrates the co-existence of overall chiasmal hypoplasia and relative decussation deficit. Although not shown for every case, this finding was present in all.
not remained strict over time. In 1946 Rucker described seesaw nystagmus in a patient with vertical and torsional movements in the left eye (as described by Maddox), but only vertical movement in the right eye. Jensen described seesaw nystagmus as a “rare disjunctive form of vertical nystagmus in which the eyes perform opposed vertical movements”, but did not specify a necessary torsional component.

Disorders of the mesencephalon, chiasmal trauma, and chiasmal compressive lesions are associated with seesaw nystagmus. Achiasmia is a recent addition to the differential diagnosis of seesaw nystagmus.

In initial reports the pattern of nystagmus in achiasmia was limited to the combination of congenital horizontal and seesaw nystagmus. However, purely horizontal nystagmus may be present in achiasmia, as illustrated by cases 1, 2 and 9 in this study and in a previous case report. Combined horizontal and torsional nystagmus also appears to be consistent with achiasmia as illustrated by cases 4 and 7.

Conclusions and general observations

Certainty of the diagnosis of achiasmia can only be achieved by a combination of MRI scanning and VEPs. A number of our original sample of patients with VEP features of contralateral crossed positivity had to be excluded because the study was too noisy and/or was not reproducible on subsequent testing. It is also not possible to determine if there is complete absence of decussation on the MRI scan; this would require extremely thin sections.

Despite the wide spectrum of midline congenital CNS malformations in our achiasmic patients, most function well; five of the nine patients attend mainstream schools and are not behind their age matched peers. One (case 1) participates in junior golf competitions; another (case 6) performs well in arts and crafts. Other reports corroborate our finding of a high level of functioning in these children.

Full visual fields and ophthalmoscopically normal optic discs are consistent with achiasmia, as shown by our cases 1 and 3. There does not appear to be any single pattern to the nystagmus: it may be rotary, seesaw, or purely horizontal. Subtle neurological problems may co-exist with “isolated” forms, as reported elsewhere and in our cases 1 and 2.

Achiasmia appears to be rare, but a portion of children diagnosed with “idiopathic congenital motor nystagmus” may have reduced decussation as part of the underlying abnormality—especially since VEPs and MRI scans are often not performed when the appearance of the nystagmus is “classic”.

Relatively reduced decussation affects a subset of children with developmental abnormalities that include midline facial defects, basal encephaloceles, midbrain defects, pituitary and
The achiasma spectrum hypotalamic defects, alone or in combination. Whenever there is reason to suspect congenital chiasmal maldevelopment, VEPs, MRI scans, endocrine assessment, and visual follow up until mature are recommended.

Video available on journal website at http://bjo.bmj.com/supplemental

Authors’ affiliations


G Jeffery, Institute of Ophthalmology, London, UK

M Dattani, Department of Biochemistry, Institute of Child Health (University College, London), London and Department of Endocrinology, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, UK

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Primary nasolacrimal duct malignant mucosal melanoma

Primary nasolacrimal duct malignancy is rare. Only a few tumours have been reported originating from this location including lymphoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, adenocarcinoma, angiofibroma, and squamous cell carcinoma. Mucosal melanoma represents 1–2% of all melanomas, with 25–50% in the head and neck—that is, upper respiratory tract, oral cavity, and pharynx. Other sites include urinary, female genital, and ano-rectal tracts. These tumours are uncommon, present in the fifth to eighth decades, have slight male preponderance and are more common in darker skinned individuals. Cutaneous melanoma presents two decades earlier and is more common in white people and is associated with sun exposure.

Case report

A 41 year old Asian male presented to the oculoplastic service with a 3 month history of right sided intermittent bloody tears and epistaxis. He described right simple epiphora for at least 2 years treated with a three snip procedure. Probing the right nasolacrimal system confirmed normal canaliculi and easy entry of the probe into the lacrimal sac. Irrigation demonstrated complete nasolacrimal duct block and reflux of dark bloody tears. Nasal endoscopy (rigid Hopkins nasal endoscope) revealed a greyish mass emerging from the lower end of the nasolacrimal duct into the inferior meatus (fig 1).

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scans (fig 2) demonstrated dilatation of the entire length of the nasolacrimal bony canal with a soft tissue mass occupying the lumen of the nasolacrimal duct. The mass was invading the osteomeatal complex, extending into the anterior ethmoidal sinus, causing obstruction to drainage of both maxillary and frontal sinuses.

A transnasal incisional biopsy of the inferior meatus lesion was performed under local anaesthetic. Histopathological analysis of the biopsy showed sheets of epithelioid cells with prominent nucleoli and vesicular cells and pigment. Immunohistochemical studies were positive for immunological markers HMB45 and S100 protein, confirming a diagnosis of melanoma. No regional lymphadenopathy was present and PET (positron emission tomography) scan excluded the presence of metastases.

Wide local excision of the tumour was performed, via a lateral rhinotomy approach (fig 4). The nasolacrimal duct, part of the lateral wall of the nose, the lacrimal sac, distal upper and lower canaliculi, and inferomedial orbital fat were excised. Tumour extended into the maxilla but not into the lacrimal sac. Perioperative frozen sections from the excision margins, including orbital fat, demonstrated clearance of tumour. This allowed preservation of the eye.

Adjunctive therapy was given to limit local recurrence and distant spread. The patient received 20 sessions of radiotherapy (30 Gy) to the right maxillary antrum, and also immunotherapeutic vaccination with autologous dendritic cells pulsed with allogenic tumour lysate, and whole body hyperthermia accompanied by low dose interferon.

Three years after presentation there was no local recurrence of tumour. Unfortunately, the patient developed bone pain and CT scan revealed metastatic spread to the right acetabulum and T8, T9, and T11 vertebrae with localised spinal cord compression. He underwent radiotherapy to the right acetabulum and spine. The patient died approximately 6 months later.

Comment

Nasolacrimal duct primary mucosal melanoma is previously unreported. The closest relations are lacrimal sac melanoma (5% of lacrimal sac tumours) and sinonasal mucosal melanoma (5% of all sinonasal malignancy). Lacrimal sac melanoma can present with epiphora, bloody tears, and epistaxis. Sinonasal melanoma can present with nasal obstruction and epistaxis. Orbital extension causes proptosis and diplopia. Both lacrimal sac melanoma and sinonasal melanoma are insidious in onset with poor visibility leading to late presentation.

Standard treatment of primary sinonasal melanoma is radical wide local surgical excision. Local recurrence can occur and the very vascular nature of mucosal tissue makes regional and distant metastases common, often accompanying late presentation. Postsurgical radiotherapy may prevent local recurrence, but is unlikely to prevent distant metastases. Other adjunctive treatments are not clinically proved to be beneficial. Chemotherapy has no positive effect, and newer immunological treatments are still under investigation.
CDG is a rare group of autosomal recessive metabolic disorders. The two major subgroups are type I, caused by dysfunction of glycosylated protein assembly, and type II, caused by abnormal processing of glycosylated protein end products after assembly. Patients with type Ic (OMIM #603147) have mental retardation, axial hypotonia, very low factor XI, and seizures; the gene defect in z1,3-glycosyltransferase (human homologue of ALG6;OMIM *604566) encodes an enzyme that catalyses the transfer of the first glucose residue to the lipid linked oligosaccharide precursor for N-linked glycosylation. The reported ophthalmalic manifestations of type I CDG are summarised in Table 1. We report a case of type Ic congenital disorder of glycosylation with new clinical features of idiopathic intracranial hypertension, retinal degeneration and novel mutations of ALG6.

Case report

Our patient, with non-consanguineous parents, was noted at birth to have incomplete digits on her hands and feet. She had episodes of apnoea early in life and the onset of seizures at age 20 months. Delayed physical and developmental milestones were evident early. Levels of follicle stimulating hormone and luteinising hormone were low and a diagnosis of polycystic ovarian disease was made. She underwent esotropia surgery at age 4 years and at 19 years developed thrombosis of the superficial femoral vein. Coagulation factor studies revealed very low factor XI levels. Isoelectric focusing of serum transferrin was suggestive of a congenital disorder of glycosylation. Sequencing of the ALG6 gene showed a novel three base deletion (897–899 delATT) and an intronic splice site mutation (IVS7 +2T>G). The patient was obese without signs of abnormal fat distribution. She blinked to light and no strabismus was identified by corneal light reflex. Further oculomotor examination was not feasible. On examination under anaesthesia at age 20 years, the anterior segment was normal. Dilated ophthalmoscopy showed bilateral optic nerve pallor with elevation of each nerve, diffuse retinal pigment epithelial granularity most notable in the macula, and attenuated retinal vessels (fig 1).

Electroretinography revealed prolonged implicit times on scotopic and photopic functions. Because of the elevated optic nerve heads, head magnetic resonance imaging was performed and was normal; lumbar puncture revealed an elevated opening pressure of 350 mm H2O (nl 70–180 mm H2O), a glucose of 50 mg/dl (nl 50–75 mg/dl), and a protein of 44 mg/dl (nl 15–45 mg/dl) without white blood cells. A diagnosis of idiopathic intracranial hypertension was made.

Comment

Isoelectric focusing of serum transferrin is the most common screening technique for types I and II CDG. Many congenital disorders of glycosylation have been identified based on mutational and enzyme analyses. Type I congenital disorders of glycosylation are caused by reduced functions of the genes for the assembly and processing pathways of N-glycosylation; a decrease in anodal fractions and an increase of dialysant and asialo transferrin and asialotransferrin are suggestive of the diagnosis.

Ophthalmalic features of the most common congenital disorder of glycosylation, type Ia (OMIM #212065) include myopia, attenuated retinal vessels, bone spicules, esotropia, and nystagmus; this disease subtype is caused by a deficiency of phosphomannomutase (OMIM #212065) encoded by phosphomannomutase-2 (PM2; OMIM *601785) gene. In CDG type Ic, much less common, a homozygous amino acid substitution, A331V substitution, in the gene encoding z1,3-glycosyltransferase is the most common mutation. There is no known biochemical link between CDG and idiopathic intracranial hypertension; the association in our patient may be coincidental. Grunwald and colleagues found strabismus to be present in all eight patients with CDG type Ic; neither idiopathic intracranial hypertension nor retinal abnormalities were reported.

The developmental delay evident in our patient was severe. She possessed simple communication skills limiting her ability to complain of visual changes or symptoms of intracranial hypertension. No specific clinical presentation has been identified for the CDG group of diseases. Failure to thrive, explained seizures, hypotonia, and developmental delays are all frequently present.

In conclusion, we report an adult patient with CDG type Ic, confirmed by identification of mutations in the ALG6 gene, and describe new systemic and ocular features including idiopathic intracranial hypertension..
Woodhouse Sakati syndrome associated with bilateral keratoconus

Keratoconus is a non-inflammatory degenerative corneal disease characterised by a localised region of stromal thinning spatially associated with a cone-shaped deformation of the surface. It is most commonly an isolated sporadic condition. Recent reports demonstrate genetic mapping to chromosomes 16q, 21q, and 18p, as well as association with HLA-A26, B40, and DR 9. Keratoconus has been reported in clinical contexts with 36 other multisystem disorders. We describe the first two cases of keratoconus in association with Woodhouse Sakati syndrome.

Case report

Two sisters (aged 14 years and 18 years) presented with history of bilateral progressive loss of vision over 8 years. Progeny of a first degree consanguineous marriage, they were the only members in the family of six siblings with a diagnosis of Woodhouse Sakati syndrome. Both sisters exhibited variable manifestations of the syndrome including hypogonadism, primary amenorrhea, hypothalamic dysfunction, electrocardiographic abnormalities, and dysmorphic features. The elder sister also had a mild degree of mental retardation. None of their siblings or parents had eye complaints but a maternal aunt’s daughter had bilateral keratoconus.

Ophthalmic evaluation of the elder sister revealed uncorrected visual acuity (UCVA) of 20/200 in both eyes. Her refraction was −19.0 × −8.0 × 120 in the right eye and −9.0 × −3.75 × 165 in the left eye. Spectacles improved only left eye vision slightly to 20/160. Slit lamp biomicroscopy showed bilateral central corneal protrusion and stromal thinning at the apex (fig 1A). Keratometry was 71.00/63.00 @ 68 in the right eye and 53.00/49.50 @ 133 in the left eye. Hard contact lens fitting failed and surgical intervention was not conducted.

Ophthalmic evaluation of the younger sister revealed UCVA of 20/40 in the right eye and 20/160 in the left eye, which improved to 20/20 with spectacles. Slit lamp biomicroscopy showed similar findings to her sister (fig 1B). Keratometry was 36.6 D/54.1 D @ 170 in the right eye and 49.2 D/56.6 D @ 46 in the left eye. She developed corneal hydrops in the left eye and contact lens fitting failed. Because of central corneal scarring and progressive deterioration of her left eye vision, she underwent penetrating keratoplasty (fig 1C). Fourteen months postoperatively, UCVA was 20/50, improving to 20/30 with pin hole.

Comment

Woodhouse Sakati syndrome (MIM 241080) is an extremely rare genetically determined autosomal recessive disorder. It was first described in two Saudi Arabian families, and later reported in a single Turkish family. Table 1 presents manifestations of the syndrome.

We report a new association in our two cases. Such concurrence of early keratoconus and the syndrome raises the possibility of a genetic linkage, although a chance association cannot be excluded.

On one hand, either chromosomal rearrangements such as chromosome 7, 11 translocation or genetically determined syndromes such as this syndrome should be considered in cases where keratoconus is present during childhood. That may explain the early presentation of keratoconus in our cases. An additional factor is that keratoconus tends to be more prevalent and diagnosed at a younger age in Asians than in white people.

On the other hand, familial keratoconus in our cases cannot be excluded because of the presence of keratoconus in a single relative and parental consanguinity. Positive family history has been reported in 6% to 10% of keratoconus cases and is suggested to be caused by autosomal dominant inheritance with incomplete penetrance.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of bilateral keratoconus in association with Woodhouse Sakati syndrome. Ophthalmologists and endocrinologists should be aware that patients with this syndrome who complain of poor vision should be suspected of having keratoconus once other more common conditions are ruled out.

Woodhouse Sakati syndrome

Variable manifestations in the nine reported patients with Woodhouse Sakati syndrome

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable manifestations of the nine reported patients with Woodhouse Sakati syndrome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delayed psychomotor development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable degree of mental retardation (very frequent sign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alapoeia (very frequent sign), sparse/absent scalp and eyebrow hair (frequent sign), dysarthria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysmorphic features: high forehead, flat occiput, triangular face, prominent nasal root, hypertelorism, and down-slanting palpebral fissures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyper/hypopituitarism, hypogonadism and late puberty (very frequent sign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensorineural deafness (very frequent sign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrocardiographic abnormalities and insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (very frequent signs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No ocular manifestations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


Figure 1

Features of keratoconus are seen. (A) Slit lamp biomicroscopy of the right cornea in the elder patient, showing advanced cone deformation and deep Descemet’s membrane scarring. (B) Slit lamp biomicroscopy of the left cornea in the younger patient, showing dense central scarring following hydrops attack. (C) Histopathological section of left corneal button illustrating the fragmentation of Bowman’s layer (large arrow) and large break in Descemet’s membrane (small arrows) (periodic acid Schiff stain, ×200).

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Retinal ischaemia in type 1 neurofibromatosis

Systemic occlusive arteriopathy associated with type 1 neurofibromatosis (NF-1) has been well described in the aortic and cerebral vasculature; however, it is poorly documented in the retinal vasculature with, to our knowledge, only three reported patients diagnosed at a later sequelae stage. Moadel et al, reported cases, our patient presented with acute macular ischaemia combined with diffuse retinal arteriolar occlusive disease.

Case report

A 26 year old woman with NF-1 presented with a sudden painless loss of vision in her left eye. Visual acuity was counting fingers left eye and 20/20 right eye. NF-1 had previously been diagnosed on the basis of multiple café au lait spots, plexiform neurofibromas, and a paternal history of NF-1. Left fundus examination revealed confluent cottonwool spots in the peripapillary area, focal dilatations and narrowings of retinal venules, and progressive enlargement of retinal arterioles towards the periphery. The right fundus showed only peripapillary myelinated nerve fibres (fig 1).

Fluorescein angiography (FA) of the left eye showed no delayed perfusion in the choriocapillaris or central retinal artery, but a delayed retinal arteriovenous filling time. It revealed occlusion of macular arterioles, retinal arteriovenous communications in the mid-periphery, and a relatively well perfused retinal periphery (fig 2).

Cerebral and cervical magnetic resonance imaging and colour Doppler ultrasonography showed no vascular flow abnormalities. Internal medical examination and laboratory results excluded other diseases associated with retinal microvasculopathies.

One month after the initial examination, all the cottonwool spots disappeared, and sheathing appeared in a few veins. FA showed worsening of the retinal arteriolar communications in the mid-periphery (fig 2). A panretinal photocoagulation was subsequently performed. At 2 year follow up, left visual acuity remained unchanged, and the patient did not exhibit any preretal fibrovascular proliferation.

Comment

To our knowledge, only three cases of retinal vascular occlusion in patients with NF-1 have been previously reported. All cases were diagnosed at a later sequelae stage. Moadel et al and Kadari et al, respectively, reported the cases of a child who presented with an unilateral amblyopia, and a young woman with a history of unilateral poor vision. They both presented with diffuse sheathing of retinal vessels, retinal arteriovenous communications, and avascular peripheral retina with fibroglial proliferation. Tholen et al described a young man whose routine eye examination showed narrowing of a superotemporal retinal arteriolar with irregular diameter of the corresponding vein, fibroglial proliferation, and arteriovenous communications. These authors suggested the possibility of either a primary occlusion of a retinal arterial or venous branch or alterations of vessel development. In contrast with other reported cases, our patient presented with acute unilateral occlusion of macular arteries, combined with diffuse retinal arterial occlusive disease, in adulthood. Panretinal photocoagulation may have prevented fibroglial proliferation which was described in previous reported cases. Recent reports suggest that pathogenesis of NF-1 vasculopathy may result from dysfunction of neurofibromin, the NF-1 gene product, in vessel endothelial and smooth muscle cells.

Our case shows that NF-1 related occlusive retinal arteriopathy may suddenly appear during adulthood and should be considered in patients with NF-1 or in young adults with retinal vascular occlusive disease and unknown NF-1.

References


Are biometric parameters a risk factor for idiopathic macular hole formation? Results of a matched case-control series

Recognised risk factors for the formation of idiopathic full thickness macular holes (IFTMH) include age, female, sex, and high myopia. However, we noticed the presence of IFTMH within our population, tended to have shorter than normal axial lengths. An age and sex matched case-control study was performed...
therefore performed to test this hypothesis and determine whether biometric factors may be associated with formation of IFTMH.

Methods
Consecutive patients undergoing surgery for IFTMH had age, sex, axial length in millimetres (mm), and corneal keratometry (K) measurements in dioptres (D) recorded.

For each case three age and sex matched controls were randomly identified from a cataract surgery database (Medisoft). Biometric measurements were made in all cases and controls using the IOL-Master (Zeiss, Jena). Mean corneal curvature was calculated by averaging the two K readings. Descriptive statistics and conditional logistic regression method for analysis of matched pair data were used to infer estimates.

Results
Thirty five consecutive cases and 105 controls were identified with a mean age of 67.3 years (35–77 years) and a female to male ratio of 24:11. The mean (SD) axial length in the cases was 22.94 (0.96) mm whereas in controls it was 23.48 (1.44) mm. The axial lengths of the cases also fell within a narrower range than those of the controls (fig 1). Mean K readings in cases was 44.04 D (range 41.87–46) and 43.44 D in controls.

Vitreoretinal Speciality, Eye Department, St Thomas’s Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK
C Bunce
Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, UK
R L Johnston
Cheltenham General Hospital, Cheltenham, Sandford Road, Cheltenham GL53 7AN, UK
D A H Laidlaw
St Thomas’s Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK

Comment
As in previous studies our population sample demonstrates an increased risk of IFTMH in females with most cases clustering in the 60–70 year age group. The mean axial length in controls was also found to be similar to those of the controls (fig 1). The mean K readings in cases were 44.04 D (range 41.87–46) and 43.44 D in controls (range 40.56–47.92).

Evidence suggests that the longer the axial length the less the odds of being a case; odds ratio (OR) 0.67 (p = 0.036, CI 0.47 to 0.77) and the higher the dioptre power of the curvature the higher the odds of being a case as opposed to a control; OR 1.50 (p = 0.02, CI 1.07 to 2.01).

Mean spherical equivalence (MSE) was measured by the Eye Disease Case Control Study Group and although their findings were statistically insignificant, their regression analysis found an increased likelihood of hypermetropia in the IFTMH cases. Our cases clustered in a relatively narrow range of axial lengths (21 mm–23.31 mm in the cases compared to 20.64 mm–29.48 mm in the controls) with the maximum axial length in the cases being 25.31 mm (fig 1). In Japanese literature, high myopia is a prominent, recognised risk factor and in one study the overall mean MSE was ~0.66 D. From our study it appears myopic macular holes are encountered much less frequently in a predominantly white population.

We believe the significant corneal dioptric differences found may be a result of the natural process of emmetropisation of a shorter eye, or alternatively be an independent risk factor.

IFTMH are thought to arise from retinal surface traction which in turn arises from an abnormal and incomplete posterior vitreous detachment. Our results suggest that eyes with shorter than average axial lengths and therefore lower volume vitreous cavity are either at increased risk of developing such incomplete and abnormal vitreous detachments or, in the presence of such an incomplete vitreous detachment, of developing a macular hole. We are not aware that shorter axial length has previously been shown to be significantly associated with IFTMH.

S P Shah
Vitreoretinal Speciality, Eye Department, St Thomas’s Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK
C Bunce
Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, UK

Figure 1 Axial lengths (mm) of patients with macular holes compared with age and sex matched controls.
Three weeks later she was readmitted with increasing dyspnoea and blurred vision. Chest x ray and computed tomography findings were compatible with diffuse interstitial fibrosis in both lungs. Funduscopy revealed peripapillary choroidal lesions with disc swelling bilaterally (fig 2). This time the choroidal lesions were peripapillary only rather than throughout the posterior pole, with exudative detachments inferiorly. Recurrent *P jiroveci* pneumonia and choroiditis was diagnosed and oral atovaquone and high dose prednisolone were commenced. Within 3 weeks her fundal appearance resolved leaving only some pigmented disc swelling bilaterally (fig 2). This time varied on the second presentation, but more varied than previously described. In our case, the acute clinical findings may be considered in the differential diagnosis of susceptible patients, even if the ophthalmologic findings are “atypical.”

**Comment**

*Pneumocystis jiroveci* is a commensal, found in the respiratory tract of healthy individuals. It can cause infections of almost any organ in immunocompromised hosts.3,4 *P jiroveci* choroiditis has been reported in immunocompromised patients despite prophylactic use of inhaled pentamidine.5,6 The diagnosis is based on the clinical findings of multifocal yellowish circular choroidal lesions at the posterior pole. *P jiroveci* has been found in these lesions on histologic sections5,6 and the lesions resolve on systemic anti-pneumocystis treatment.4 However, most cases of *P jiroveci* choroiditis are diagnosed histologically post mortem.4,5

Thus, the acute clinical findings may be more varied than previously described. In our patient, massive exudative retinal detachments were associated with the previously described choroidal lesions. The clinical picture varied on the second presentation, but there was complete and rapid resolution of the signs with anti-pneumocystis therapy. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of *P jiroveci* choroiditis causing exudative retinal detachments. *P jiroveci* should be considered in the differential diagnosis of photosensitive patients, even if the ophthalmologic findings are “atypical.”

K Sabri, K Bibby
Department of Ophthalmology, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester LE1 5WW, UK
Correspondence to: K Sabri, Department of Ophthalmology, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester LE1 5WW, UK, ksabri@yahoo.com
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**References**


**Prothrombotic and atherosclerotic risk factors lack significance in NAION patients harbouring mitochondrial DNA mutations**

We recently reported that a group of patients with non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION) had an increased prevalence of potentially pathological mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) mutations, implying a link between mitochondrial disease and this optic neuropathy.4 We decided to investigate the association of other risk factors for NAION in these same patients.

**Case reports**

NAION patients were genotyped for the presence of prothrombotic polymorphisms that have been reported in association with NAION,7–11 including factor II G20210A prothrombin variant, factor V Leiden G1691A variant, MTHFR C677T and A1298C variants, platelet glycoprotein receptor IIa (PIIa)6 allele, and apolipoprotein E (ApoE)4 allele, as described previously.11 These reports included large control groups that were ethnically matched to our NAION patients and that had been queried regarding the presence of atherosclerotic risk factors. Controls older than 50 years were selected for comparison with NAION patients.

Table 1 shows that the prevalence rates for prothrombotic variants among NAION patients did not differ from controls. Reported prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidaemia was relatively high in NAION patients but was also not significantly different from controls.

**Comment**

The lack of a significant association between NAION patients and controls in relation to thrombophilic and atherosclerotic risk factors has been reported before,8,9 and the role of these factors remains uncertain. More surprising is the lack of a statistical association with atherosclerotic risk factors. For example, in our group of NAION patients, 68% were diabetic, but this figure did not differ significantly from the prevalence of more than 50% in well matched controls. This observation reflects the high, and rising, frequency of diabetes and other atherosclerotic risk factors in the developing world.

A few qualifications are appropriate. NAION patients were a relatively small group of Middle Eastern Arabs, and it is possible that a larger group would have yielded statistically significant results or that the observations reported here are specific to this genetically homogeneous population. Atherosclerotic risk factors were assessed by individual report from patients and controls, and the actual prevalence of these disorders may be different from that recognised. Finally, other risk factors, such as homocysteine levels, nocturnal hypotension, or environmental factors12 were not consistently investigated.

Nevertheless, the fact that the occurrence of NAION cannot be easily explained by the presence of prothrombotic or atherosclerotic risk factors shifts focus to the possibility that mitochondrial abnormalities may be important in the development of NAION. Based on these observations, testing for mitochondrial abnormalities may be warranted in NAION patients, especially the ones without a...
Inflammatory cytokine of basal and reflex tears analysed by multicytokine assay

Tear cytokine has a major role in various pathophysiological conditions of the ocular surface. So far, studies on tear cytokines have shown significant progress in providing an understanding of underlying pathogenesis of ocular diseases. 1 The information that could be acquired from tear samples of 10–15 μl were obtained from the inferior meniscus. Successively, it has become apparent that the relative balance between various cytokines and combinations of cytokines could be more important than absolute concentrations. Previous studies showed that the composition of basal and reflex tears was different, which made it more difficult to understand the ocular surface disorder correctly or to treat the patients suitably. 2 The cytokine bead array (CBA) is a microarray of multiple cytokines; however the results of the inter-relation of each cytokine, the ratio of two different cytokines is shown in table 1.

Methods

Twenty three normal volunteers (11 males and 12 females, 22–44 years of age, average 28 years) were recruited for this study. None of the subjects had signs of ocular diseases. The samples were collected non-traumatically from the inferior meniscus. Successively, reflex tear samples were collected by inserting application sticks into a participant’s nose. The amounts of six inflammatory molecules interleukin (IL)-1β, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12p70, and tumour necrosis factor α (TNF-α), were measured by CBA (BD Biosciences, San Diego, CA, USA), according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Briefly, for the tear sample and cytokine standard mixture, 10 μl of sample or standard were added to 40 μl sterile purified water, a mixture of 50 μl each of capture Ab-bead reagent and detector Ab-phycocerythrin (PE) reagent. The mixture was subsequently incubated for 5 hours at room temperature, and washed to remove any unbound detector Ab–PE reagent before data acquisition using flow cytometry. A two colour flow cytometric analysis was performed using a FACScan flow cytometer (Beckton Dickinson Immunocytometry Systems). Data were acquired and analysed using BD cytometric bead array software.

Results

The concentrations of IL-1β, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12p70, and TNF-α were not significantly different between basal and reflex tears. In contrast, the concentration of IL-8 was significantly decreased in reflex tears compared with basal tears in each eye (paired t test, p<0.01, fig 1). In order to illuminate the inter-relation of each cytokine, the ratio of two different cytokines is shown in table 1.

Comment

Previously published studies have demonstrated that CBA correlates well with enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), but the absolute concentrations, obtained from each assay were different for kits of different manufacturers. 7 Indeed, the concentrations of tear cytokines in the present results were almost equal to the previous report using the same kit. 7 Nakamura et al performed ELISA for multiple cytokines measuring pooled tears. 7 The pooled tears enable measurement of multiple cytokines; however the results

| Table 1 | Comparison of risk factors in NAION patients and controls |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factor</th>
<th>NAION patients</th>
<th>Controls</th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>p Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apo E4</td>
<td>Homo 0/19</td>
<td>0/593</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>0.60 to 1615.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor II G20210A</td>
<td>Homo 0/19</td>
<td>0/593</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>0.60 to 1615.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factor V G1691A</td>
<td>Hetero 0/19</td>
<td>0/200</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>0.20 to 545.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTHFR C677T</td>
<td>Hetero 0/19</td>
<td>5/200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00 to 13.10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTHFR A1298C</td>
<td>Hetero 4/19</td>
<td>162/625</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.21 to 2.52</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI2 allele</td>
<td>Hetero 1/19</td>
<td>128/625</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00 to 2.71</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, mean (SD)</td>
<td>58 (8.5)</td>
<td>57 (4.2)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (M:F)</td>
<td>14:5</td>
<td>351:160</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.42 to 4.13</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>13/19</td>
<td>256/511</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>0.59 to 4.38</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>209/511</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.59 to 4.38</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperlipidaemia</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>59/511</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.11 to 3.17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>1/19</td>
<td>27/511</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.03 to 4.03</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAION, non-arteritic ischaemic optic neuropathy; CAD, coronary artery disease; NS mtDNA changes, non-synonymous (changing an amino acid in the resultant protein); mitochondrial DNA nucleotide change; Homo, homozygous; Hetero, heterozygous. Diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, and CAD were assessed by patient report both from NAION patients and from controls. Controls previously reported for mtDNA changes and for atherosclerotic and prothrombotic risk factors (see text). Odds ratio and p values compare prevalence of different risk factors in NAION patients to controls.

References


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can be strongly influenced by samples with high concentrations. Because the absolute concentrations of tear cytokines varied widely, this can have a strong bias. In this study, to our knowledge, we measured the multiple cytokines of basal and reflex tears from a single sample for the first time, which can provide concentration ranges for these cytokines in normal subjects that may prove helpful for homeostasis of the ocular surface. Indeed, a large amount of IL-8 was found in the tears of dry eyes. Therefore, basal tears might be composed of products of the ocular surface including IL-8 and small amounts of reflex tears that are induced by mild stimulation such as blinks.

In summary, the present study showed that pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines/chemokines are present in the cornea so abundantly, IL-8 can be produced constantly on the ocular surface. IL-8 is a potent pro-inflammatory cytokine, and has a pivotal role in the host defence system. But excessive IL-8 might be so harmful that constant washout might be helpful for homeostasis of the ocular surface. Presently, the study is quite limited to the comparisons in basal and reflex tears. It was reported that a neuropeptide released from corneal sensory nerves stimulated conjunctival epithelium to secrete IL-8. Because sensory nerves are present in the cornea so abundantly, IL-8 can be produced constantly on the ocular surface. IL-8 is a potent pro-inflammatory cytokine, and has a pivotal role in the host defence system. But excessive IL-8 might be so harmful that constant washout might be helpful for homeostasis of the ocular surface. Indeed, a large amount of IL-8 was found in the tears of dry eyes. In conclusion, IL-8 might be only the result of the secretory rate formation and this was detectable from a small sample of single eyes. Stimulating tears, with the exception of IL-8, has minimal effect on cytokine concentration. We believe the CBA technique can make a valuable contribution in understanding the specific immunopathological mechanisms underlying cytokine interaction with the ocular surface.

S Sonoda, E Uchino, K Nakao, T Sakamoto
Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medicine and Dental Sciences, Kagoshima, Japan

Correspondence to: Taiji Sakamoto, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medicine and Dental Sciences, 8-33-1 Sakuragaoka, Kagoshima 890-8520, Japan; tasketsak@ms.kum.kagoshima-u.ac.jp
doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.076737

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References

Figure 1 Change of concentrations of cytokines in basal and reflex tears. The concentration of IL-1β, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12p70 and TNF-α are not significantly different between basal and reflex tears. In contrast, IL-8 is significantly less in reflex tears compared with basal tears in each eye (paired t test, *p<0.01).

### Table 1 Ratios of cytokine concentrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IL-1b</td>
<td>IL-6</td>
<td>TNF-α</td>
<td>IL-12p70</td>
<td>IL-10</td>
<td>IL-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Basal tear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1b</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.989</td>
<td>4.518</td>
<td>0.251</td>
<td>2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-6</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.195</td>
<td>1.926</td>
<td>2.877</td>
<td>1.288</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Reflex tear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-1b</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.977</td>
<td>0.977</td>
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<tr>
<td>IL-6</td>
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<td>2.877</td>
<td>1.288</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ratio of cytokine concentration was calculated as A/B. Each cell shows the mean (SEM).
Outcome of implementing the national services framework guidelines for diabetic retinopathy screening: results of an audit in a primary care trust

Systematic screening for diabetic retinopathy is the key to achieving the targets set out in the recently published national service framework (NSF) guidelines.1 2 One of the two priorities and planning framework (PPF) targets is that by March 2006 a minimum of 80% of people with diabetes are to be offered screening, rising to 100% by December 2007.3 4 Digital photography is the modality for screening.5 8 The British Diabetic Association has established standards for any diabetic retinopathy screening programme of at least 80% sensitivity and 95% specificity.

Screening programme

Our screening programme was set up to evaluate the existing nationally recommended diabetic retinopathy screening service. In all, 2165 patients were invited over a period of 12 months; 909 participated. At the screening mydriatic drops (1% tropicamide and 2.5% phenylephrine) were instilled. The patients were photographed with a Topcon fundus camera and each photograph was screened and graded by consultant ophthalmologists (table 1).

Of the total 909; there were 198 patients with retinopathy (grades R1, M, R2, and R3), 644 patients without retinopathy (grade 0), 63 patients with OL (other lesions), and one was (grade U) ungradeable (tables 2 and 3). The sensitivity was 98% and specificity 97%. The retinopathy present was 21% and the referral rate for retinopathy (STDR) was 7%; 59% did not take up the offer to be screened. Some of the reasons cited: 956 (44%) declined or did not respond, 251 (11%) are work (NSF) guidelines. However authorities and primary care trusts are working to all screening programmes. Although software providers have been agreed for such a data collection exercise, primary care trusts have yet to implement this. People unable to attend during the week could be accommodated in weekend or evening clinics. These clinics could also be reserved, with bilingual support workers to explain the importance of screening for the ethnic patients. Community networks like the rotary, patient groups, ethnic resource centres, and senior citizens groups can be used. The National Service Framework targets will be achieved only if the diabetic population is convinced of the importance of screening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Referred patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic patients type 1</td>
<td>Invited 93, Appointment made 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic patients type 2</td>
<td>Invited 1442, Appointment made 609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic patients type not stated</td>
<td>Invited 630, Appointment made 259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Outcome by grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>M</td>
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Table 3 Final data

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<th>False negatives</th>
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<th>Sensitivity</th>
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References

Late improvement in upward gaze in a patient with hydrocephalus related Parinaud dorsal midbrain syndrome

Acute hydrocephalus is a common cause of the dorsal midbrain syndrome. Most patients with this condition improve either immediately following treatment of the hydrocephalus or within a few months, and it is generally assumed that those who do not do so have no potential for subsequent improvement. I recently evaluated a patient whose upward gaze spontaneously improved 4½ years after treatment of trauma related hydrocephalus.

Case report
A 23 year old Asian man was in his usual excellent general and ocular health until October 2000, when he was struck by a car while walking across the street. He was taken to a local hospital where he was found to have extensive injuries, including bilateral subdural and epidural haematomas. He also had evidence of increased intracranial pressure and required an emergency craniotomy for decompression. Postoperatively, he was evaluated by a neuro-ophthalmologist who noted that the patient’s only ocular disturbance was a mild left trochlear nerve paresis. The paresis resolved within about 3 weeks.

About 6 months after the injury, the patient developed severe headaches and double vision. He was evaluated by the same neuro-ophthalmologist who had evaluated him previously. He noted that the patient now had a severe dorsal midbrain syndrome characterised by lack of elevation of either eye above the midline associated with an exotropia of 25–30 prism dioptries at distance and near, and a left hypotropia of 5 prism dioptries. An evaluation that included neuro-imaging and measurement of intracranial pressure revealed hydrocephalus, and the patient underwent placement of a ventriculoperitoneal shunt with normalisation of intracranial pressure, resolution of neuroimaging evidence of hydrocephalus, and resolution of headaches but without any change in ocular motility or alignment. He was eventually referred to the neuro-ophthalmology unit of the Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins Hospital for evaluation and management.

The patient was examined by me for the first time in September 2001, 11 months after the initial injury and about 5 months after he had first been noted to have a dorsal midbrain syndrome. At that time, the examination revealed visual acuity of 20/20 in both eyes at distance and near. Automated perimetry revealed bilateral, incomplete, congruous, superior homonymous quadrantic field defects. Pupils were normally reactive to both light and near stimulation. In primary position, the patient had a 25 prism dioptre exotropia that increased to 35 prism dioptries on attempted right gaze and decreased to 15 prism dioptries on attempted left gaze. There was also a 5 prism dioptre left hypertropia. Convergence could elevate just barely to the midline. There was no difference in degree of elevation with pursuit versus saccades, and elevation did not improve with the oculocephalic manoeuvre. Lateral gaze and downgaze were normal bilaterally for both pursuit and saccadic eye movements. I recommended consideration of strabismus surgery and asked the patient to return in 4 months for reassessment. He did so in January 2002, at which time his ocular motility and alignment were stable. Specifically, neither eye was able to elevate above the midline, either voluntarily or by the oculocephalic manoeuvre.

In May 2002, I performed a left lateral rectus muscle recession of 7.5 mm and a left medial rectus muscle recession of 6.5 mm with a superior transposition of both the lateral and medial rectus muscles one muscle width. Postoperatively, the patient had excellent horizontal alignment, although he still had a small left hypertropia of about 5 prism dioptries and was still unable to elevate either eye above the midline.

I subsequently followed the patient at regular intervals. When I examined him in April 2004, he had no change in his ocular motility or alignment, and I recommended that he consider obtaining a small vertical prism to try to eliminate his residual vertical diplopia. I also recommended that he return in 1 year for reassessment. He did so in August 2005.

When I examined the patient in August 2005, he indicated that he thought his vision had improved. He stated that although he was aware of some double vision, it was somewhat less than it had been previously. He also thought his eyes were “moving better.”

On examination, the patient’s visual acuity with correction was 20/15 in each eye at distance and J1 in each eye at near. Colour vision testing using Hardy-Rand-Rittler pseudoisochromatic plates was 10/10 bilaterally. Visual fields were performed by static technique and showed stable bilateral, incomplete, congruous, superior homonymous quadrantic defects, consistent with damage to both inferior occipital lobes. Pupils were isoropic and normally reactive to light and near stimulation. The patient had full abduction, adduction, and infraction of both eyes. In addition, he now was able to elevate both eyes about 35° above the midline. He had normal velocity saccades in all directions, but he developed convergence-retraction nystagmus when looking at an optokinetic drum whose targets were being rotated downward. When the targets were moving upward, to the right, or to the left, the response was normal. In summary, the patient had a 4 prism dioptrre intermittent left hypertropia at distance and near, associated with 4° of intorsion of the left eye using double Maddox rods. He was most comfortable with a 4 prism diopter prism placed base up over the left spectacle lens, and a Fresnel prism of this strength and orientation was placed on the left lens of his glasses. He had no ptosis or lid retraction, and the results of slit lamp biomicroscopy, applanation tonometry, and ophthalmoscopy were normal.

Comment
The dorsal midbrain syndrome of Parinaud usually results from damage to premotor pathways for binocular upward gaze in the dorsal mesencephalon. Depending on the extent of ophthalmic injury, there may be pursuit saccadic dissociation, with better upward gaze during pursuit than when attempting upward saccades, and some patients have improved upward gaze with the oculocephalic manoeuvre, indicating sparing of infranuclear pathways. The dorsal midbrain syndrome may be caused by extrinsic or intrinsic lesions, with hydrocephalus being a common aetiology in some series. Depending on the nature and extent of damage as well as the length of time the condition has been present before the underlying disorder is treated, some patients improve, often substantially, whereas others do not. In general, patients whose underlying condition is treated successfully but who do not improve within the first weeks to months are thought to have no potential to improve; however, our patient’s spontaneous improvement about 4½ years after onset and treatment of the underlying condition indicates that some patients retain the potential to improve even after several years have passed. This information may be of value in counselling patients with the dorsal midbrain syndrome who ask if there is any chance of improvement when none has occurred after months to a few years.

References

Purification of triamcinolone acetonide suspension for intravitreal injection

In the article by García-Arumí and associates, the authors reported the results of several techniques used for purification of triamcinolone acetonide suspension for intravitreal injection (two filter dialysis techniques). I very much appreciate that they finally recommended our method (centrifugation for 5 minutes at 3000 rpm with extraction of 0.9 ml of balanced salt solution, BSS) among those compared. This could have been an interesting report but I want to raise some important issues mentioned in their paper. The source of the evaluated techniques was not clearly specified by the authors. Are they previously published techniques? Are they techniques developed entirely by García-Arumí et al? As far as I know, the centrifugation technique described by García-Arumí et al was first reported by Hernaiz-Ortega in 2003 and it was first published by Hernaiz-Ortega and myself in the 2004 July/August issue of Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers & Imaging. In fact, the term “purification” was first applied to removal of most of the vehicle from a commercially available triamcinolone acetonide suspension by us.

Parametric tests tend to be more powerful than non-parametric tests if their distributional assumptions are met. However, non-parametric methods require fewer
assumptions, and they are generally robust against problems like outliers and non-con-
stant variances. The authors tested statistical significance by the Kruskal-Wallis test, a non-
parametric procedure that is a K-sample generalisation of the two sample rank sum test (also called the Mann-Whitney U test). It tests the null hypothesis of identical group medians, rather than means. With the data available in this report, the authors should have noticed that figures 1 and 2 show means and standard deviations; they should instead have shown group medians. Moreover, their results should have been expressed as medians. It also remains unclear how many assays were performed. By looking at figures 1 and 2, it seems that three assays were done each time but somehow they were done in duplicate. This is important to show the real sample size that was used to compute the estimate.

The pellet resuspension with 0.9 ml of BSS in the centrifugation technique appeared in their final recommendation at the end of the paper. However, the authors stated in the methods section that the pellet was resus-
pended with 1 ml of BSS. This point needs to be explained.

I recommend that the authors clarify the above mentioned issues. I also suggest that they should have explained how the golden rule of fair use of another author’s protected material: take from someone else only what you wouldn’t mind someone taking from you.

References


Expression of TSH-R in normal human extracocular muscles

We read with interest the paper published by Boschi et al., in which immunohistochemistry was performed on orbital tissue from patients with thyroid associated ophthalmopathy (TAO) and compared with non-dis-
cased orbital tissue.

Our laboratory recently reported positive TSH receptor staining within normal human muscle fibres, using one of the same anti-
odies (3G4) as Boschi et al. (supplied by Costagliola) and a commercial antibody (3B12).

Our findings differ from Boschi et al.’s as no staining of the muscle fibres was visible in their experience.

Assessing the techniques used suggested some possibilities as to why our findings differ. Our paraffin embedded tissues were subjected to a proteolytic antigen retrieval step, as commonly used in avidin-biotin staining. The reason for this is that formalin used in fixation is notorious for altering protein immunoreactivity, and hence masking protein expression. 1, 2, 3

Moreover, the amplification immunohisto-
chemistry kit used in our experiments is possibly more sensitive than conventional immunohistochemistry used in the experi-
ments of Boschi et al. 1, 4

We do not dispute the finding that TSH-R expression is elevated in orbital connective tissue of diseased patients. Combined with our findings, Boschi et al.’s paper also suggests that expression of TSH-R on normal muscle fibres is lower than in the connective tissue of diseased patients. Boschi et al. have success-
fully produced more evidence that connective tissues in the orbit are active in TAO affected patients; however, the potential role of the extraocular muscle in the pathogenesis of TAO should also be considered.

S J Klaprogge, A G Frauman

Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Unit, Level 5, Lance Townsends Building, Austin Health, Studdley Road, Heidelberg, Victoria, 3084, Australia.

Correspondence to: Mr Steven Klaprogge, Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Unit, Level 5, Lance Townsends Building, Austin Health, Studdley Road, Heidelberg, Victoria, 3084, Australia; s.klaprogge@unimelb.edu.au
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References

Trabeculotomy versus trabeculotomy-trabeculectomy for congenital glaucoma

The article by Al-Hazmi et al states that combined trabeculotomy-trabeculectomy with mitomycin C (CTTM) gave better results than trabeculotomy alone for primary congenital glaucoma (PCG) at the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital (KKESH) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, between 1982 and 2002. For moderate PCG the success rate was stated as 40% and 80% for trabeculotomy and CTTM, respectively. For severe PCG the stated success rate is 10% and 70% for trabeculotomy and CTTM, respectively. However, without more specific information regarding when the trabeculotomies were performed at KKESH, the authors cannot advocate CTTM over trabeculotomy for moderate and severe PCG.

As the article states, over the years at KKESH the success rate for trabeculotomy for PCG dramatically improved (29% from 1992–1994; 47% from 1991–1993; 82% from 1995–2002). The authors attribute these improved results over the years to improved primary health-care facilities within the kingdom, earlier referrals, better equipment availability, and surgeons becoming more adept at surgical intervention. In contrast, CTTM for PCG was first performed at KKESH in 1994 with less of a “learning curve”; the success rate from 1994–2002 was 72%. The complication rate, however, was higher for CTTM than for trabeculotomy. Because initial trabeculotomy success for PCG at KKESH has dramatically increased with time, it is important to know how many complications are associated with time, it is important to know how many trabeculotomies were performed at KKESH, the authors cannot advocate CTTM over trabeculotomy for moderate and severe PCG.

Correspondence to: A O Khan, King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, PO Box 7191, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; arif.khan@mssm.edu

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doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.66431corr1

The letter titled, Bevacizumab suppresses choroidal neovascularisation caused by pathological myopia (Br J Ophthalmol 2005; 10: 1368–87), was previously published online at http://bjo.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/89/6/e1.

In the paper titled, The achaenisma spectrum: congenitally reduced chiasmal decussation (Br J Ophthalmol 2005; 89: 1311–17), one of the authors names has been misspelt. The correct list of authors is, D A Sami, D Saunders, D A Thompson, J M Russell-Eggitt, K N Nisarn, G Jeffrey, M Dattani, R A Clement, A Liasis, D S Taylor. The journal apologises for this error.

doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.68171corr1

In the letter titled, Two novel mutations of connexion genes in Chinese families with autosomal dominant congenital nuclear cataract (Br J Ophthalmol 2005; 89: 1333–6), the authors have been listed incorrectly. The correct listing is, Z W Ma, J Q Zheng, J Li, X R Li, X Tang, X Y Yuan, X M Zhang, H M Sun.

doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.bj75184corr1

In the mailbox item titled, TTT: local light absorption and heat convection versus heat (Br J Ophthalmol 2005; 89: 1544–5), the second author’s name has been misspelt. The correct spelling is D H Sliney. The journal apologises for this error.

doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.bj82453corr1

In the letter titled, Confocal microscopy of the cornea in nephropathic cystinosis (Br J Ophthalmol 2005; 89: 1530–1), the order of the authors is incorrect. The correct order is A H Alsuhabani, A O Kals, M D Wagoner. The journal apologises for this error.

doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.74468corr1

doi: 10.1136/bjo.2005.66431corr1

CORRECTIONS

EYEL \ 2006 – Brazil

The World Ophthalmology Congress (which is replacing the International Congress of Ophthalmology) is meeting in February 2006 in Brazil.

For further information on the congress and committees, scientific program and coordinators of different areas are available at the congress website www.ophthalmology2006.com.br

19th International Society for Geographical & Epidemiological Ophthalmology Congress

The 19th ISGEO congress will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 18-19 February, 2006, just prior to the ICO. Abstract submission and registration forms can be obtained by emailing Dr Paul Courtright (pourtight@kccoo.net) or by accessing the ISGEO website at www.kccoo.net/ISGEO.

EYE INJURIES

The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 55) discussed the assessment and management of eye injuries in the developing world. 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.Shah@lshtm.ac.uk; online edition: www.jceh.co.uk). Annual subscription (4 issues) UK £28/US$45. Free to developing country applicants.

8th EUNOS Meeting – 2007

The 2007 European Neuro-ophthalmology Society meeting (EUNOS; www.eunos.rockefeller.edu) will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey on 26-29th May 2007. For further information please visit www.eunos2007.org, email: or contact Pinar Aydin aydinp@eunos2007.org.

Teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery

Several teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery have been organised throughout 2006 and 2007 around the world in association with the International Faculty. For further information on each of these courses please contact Ingrid Kressig, Univ. Augenklinik Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1-3, 68164 Mannheim, Germany; email: Ingrid.kressig@augen.ma.uni-heidelberg.de; website: http://kressig.uni-hd.de/.

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