CASE NOTES

SUBCONJUNCTIVAL INJECTION OF POLYMYXIN B*

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Case Report

A male aged 33 years was admitted to hospital on December 12, 1952, suffering from corneal ulcer with a small hypopyon in the right eye. A foreign body had lodged in this eye 3 days previously.

A culture was taken from the conjunctival sac and the patient was given a subconjunctival injection of mydracaine and penicillin. Guttae atropine 1 per cent. and guttae penicillin and oculentum chloramphenicol 1 per cent. were instilled locally, the antibiotics being given every 4 hours.

The pathologist's report showed a moderate growth of *Ps. pyocyanea* resistant to chloramphenicol. A supply of Polymyxin was therefore sought (Ainslie and Smith, 1952), and aureomycin 1 per cent. ointment was instilled into the eye every 4 hours.

On December 24, 1952, treatment was started with Polymyxin B. By this time the ulcer occupied the greater part of the cornea, the anterior chamber was three-quarters full of hypopyon, and it was being discussed whether or not the eye should be removed. Eight doses of 50,000 units Polymyxin B were injected subconjunctivally on alternate days (there being insufficient for systemic use). Apart from slight pain for half-an-hour after, there appeared to be no ill effects from the injections, and at the end of the course the ulcer had healed and the hypopyon had been absorbed. The patient was kept in hospital under observation until January 27, 1953, by which time the eye was quiet, visual acuity was counting fingers at 2 m., and the ocular tension was normal.

Conclusions

- (1) Although the visual result was poor there is no doubt that without the use of Polymyxin B the eye would have had to have been excised.
- (2) There was no evidence of severe local irritation or ataxic symptoms.

REFERENCE

AINSLIE, D., and SMITH, C. (1952). *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, 36, 352.

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