LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Perfluorocarbon liquid as a surgical adjunct in the surgical repair of stage V retinopathy of prematurity

EDITOR.—A male infant, born at 25 weeks' gestation, developed threshold disease bilaterally. Both eyes received peripheral retinal cryosurgery, as outlined in the cryOKOP study.1 Despite cryotherapy, the left eye progressed to a total retinal detachment (stage V ROP), with a posteriorly and anteriorly closed funnel configuration.

A left lesenectomy, vitrectomy, and membrane stripping procedure were performed. Perfluorodecalin (Ospia Pharmaceuticals, France) was injected during the course of the membrane stripping, enabling a gradual 'opening' of the posteriorly closed funnel, allowing excellent visualisation and removal of the remaining posterior proliferative tissue.

Additional perfluorodecalin was gradually injected as the membrane stripping progressed. Unlike with rhegmatogenous retinal detachments, where the perfluorocarbon liquid forces the subretinal fluid out through the retinal tear into the vitreous cavity and out the sclerotomy, the displaced subretinal fluid was forced underneath the retina anteriorly. It was therefore necessary to perform a sclerotomy and subretinal fluid drainage manoeuvre, as with a standard scleral buckling procedure, to remove the displaced subretinal fluid. This approach allowed a complete removal of all epiretinal proliferative tissue and subretinal fluid. An air-fluid exchange was then performed, with care taken to remove completely all of the perfluorodecalin. At the end follow up, 22 weeks postoperatively, zone I remains completely attached.

The above technique offers great promise for the surgical repair of these most difficult cases. The perfluorodecalin allows the complete removal of the proliferative tissue, and in combination with external drainage, the subretinal fluid. I have recently used this technique on five octuplets infants with similar, very encouraging, results. Additional study is of course required to evaluate the long term visual significance of these anatomic surgical successes.

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BOOK REVIEWS


This is a concise and very readable book which sets out to review the whole range of external eye diseases — lids, conjunctiva, and cornea — without pursuing any topic in great depth. It achieves this aim admirably by matching high quality colour photographs on one page with a clear, accurate, and succinct description of the condition in question on the facing page. The salient clinical features, pathogenesis, and an outline of current approaches to treatment are covered in sufficient detail to ensure that the main characteristics of the condition are conveyed.

While the text is brief and to the point, more detailed reviews of selected topics are listed as a guide to further reading: no attempt is made at a comprehensive list of references as this would distract the general reader from what the authors consider to be the more helpful texts.

The clarity of illustration and the level at which the text and references are pitched make this volume particularly valuable to candidates preparing for the fellowship and similar examinations as well as to general ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, and nurses who may be confronted from time to time by an unfamiliar external eye disease. It can be recommended without hesitation.

COLIN HUTCHINSON


The first edition of Ocular pathology — a color atlas was produced in 1982 and this was open to criticism in so far as illustrations were sometimes smaller than desirable. Accordingly as a companion to the textbook by these authors Ocular pathology: a text and atlas a revised atlas has been provided. This is a large book which contains more material than the first edition. There is some reference to modern technology and up to date information on ocular pathology has been included. The illustrations are generally of very high quality but reproduction of low magnification material is rather weak and not particularly helpful.

This is a didactic text which would be excellent for an individual who is at an early stage in training either as an ophthalmic pathologist or as a clinical ophthalmologist. Similarly the book would be useful to a general pathologist who only occasionally receives specimens from the eye theatre.

One would have to be somewhat critical on two counts. Firstly, the lists provided are not weighted in terms of frequency of disease and extreme rarities are included with common entities: this distorts the perspective of the trainee. Another more serious criticism is that the bibliography has not been updated adequately and, rather sadly, reference is made only to works in the American literature. In spite of this the book could be very useful to someone who is working at the bench or reviewing for a postgraduate examination.

W R LEE

NOTICES

Systemic lupus erythematosus

An awareness campaign is being conducted by Lupus UK, under the title of Lupus Awareness Week 1993, on 10–17 April 1993. Further information: Yvette Self, Informational Education Advisor, Lupus UK, Queens Court, 9–17 Eastern Road, Romford, Essex RM1 5NG, UK. (Tel: 0708 731251; Fax: 0708 731252.)

Singapore National Eye Centre

The Singapore National Eye Centre will hold its 1st international meeting on 16–18 April 1993 at the Shangri-la Hotel, Singapore. The theme of the meeting is 'Cataract in ophthalmology'. Further details: The Administrator, Singapore National Eye Centre, 11 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 0316. (Tel: (65) 227 7255; Fax: (65) 227 7290.)

Duke University Uveitis Course

The Duke University uveitis course will be held on 23–24 April 1993 at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Further details: George Andrews, Duke Uveitis Training Center, Box 3802, Durham, NC 27710, USA. (Tel: (919) 684–6611; Fax: (919) 684–2230.)

Pan Arab Council of Ophthalmology

The second international congress of the Pan Arab Council of Ophthalmology and the silver jubilee of the Syrian Ophthalmological Society will be held 11–14 May 1993 in Damascus, Syria. Further details: Pan Arab Council Secretariat, 13 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street, PO Box 1595 Arba, Cairo, Egypt. (Tel: (202) 5744440; Fax: (202) 5744441.)

International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE)

The next European Regional IACLE meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the British Contact Lense Association in May 1993 in England. Further details: Dr Deborah Sweeney, IACLE Secretariat, PO Box 328, Randwick, Sydney, NSW, Australia 2031. (Tel: (612) 921 6311; Fax: (612) 399 9221.)