LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laceration of the eye with a fishing hook

EDITOR,—Perforation of the eye is a challenging emergency in ophthalmology and requires immediate treatment. Visual outcome after penetrating injuries with and without intraocular foreign bodies depends on the visual acuity after injury, age of patient, and the severity of the ocular trauma.1,2 We report a case of globe laceration following an accident with a fishing hook which was successfully treated without surgery.

CASE REPORT

A 12 year old boy presented with visual disturbance and a small lid wound on the left eye at our emergency department. He had been playing with a fishing rod while sitting on a tree, and the hook jerked itself out of the boy’s eye. A small wound of the left upper lid was found. The visual acuity was 20/20 in the right eye and 20/25 in the left eye. The boy’s eye was quiet and she had a visual acuity of 20/20. On funduscopy a sclerocchorioretinal scar was found. The ultrasound disclosed a partly detached vitreous with adherence at the site of penetration (Fig 1A). No foreign body was detected by the orbital computed tomograph scan. The patient was admitted to hospital for 8 days and treated with intravenous antibiotics during 1 week followed by an oral antibiotic in the second week. He also received cortisone systemically for 10 days. Three weeks later the visual acuity was 20/20. On funduscopy a sclerochorioretinal scar was disclosed. The edges of the retinal tear were attached and vitreous haemorrhage was completely dissolved (Fig 2). After 1 year of follow up the situation remained unchanged.

COMMENT

Although penetrating injuries of the posterior segment often require surgical treatment (that is, pars plana vitrectomy), in this case antibiotic therapy was used in order to prevent an endophthalmitis3 in combination with orally administered cortisone to reduce the inflammatory reaction. Because of an excellent fundus view, postponing surgery seems to be more appropriate, since surgery implies additional risks (for example, cataract formation, retinal detachment, etc) for the eye.4,5 Significant predictors for a final visual acuities of 20/50 or better are a visual acuity of 20/800 or better and youth (<18 years).1 In a mammalian study it was disclosed that simple penetration of the equator with vitreous loss does not lead to retinal detachment.6 An intact tamponading vitreous at the time of injury seems to prevent fibrous ingrowth due to anti-proliferative effects of the hyalocytes.7 The findings of this case suggest that surgery is not the first treatment strategy for similar penetrations of the posterior segment.

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Intraocular infestation with the worm, Thelazia callipaeda

EDITOR,—Ocular infections with helminthic parasites are well described. The commonest organisms are filarial worms that reside in subcutaneous tissue, and are found as skin infestations or masses in the lids. Some are known to live freely in the conjunctival sac. Worms that are visible to the naked eye are often referred to as “eye worms3,4”, and are in the larval or adult stage of their life cycle. Thelazia callipaeda, or the oriental eye worm, is a spiruroid nematode which is the causative organism in thelaziasis, a well described condition affecting the external eye.5 It is primarily a parasite of the conjunctiva in dogs, and is also found in rabbits and humans.6 Its presence in the conjunctival sac causes laceration and irritation, and its frequent excursions across the cornea may cause marked discomfort and, eventually, corneal scarring. The worm also causes paralytic ectropion through its presence in the lower fornix. At least 40 cases of infection in humans have been described from China, Japan, India, Russia, Thailand, and Korea. All of these report extraocular infection only. We report the first case of Thelazia callipaeda to cause intraocular infection.

CASE REPORT

A 21 year old Chinese woman presented to the ophthalmology department at Shantou Central Hospital, Guangdong, China, complaining of decreased vision in her right eye and a floater in the right visual field. She had no photopsia or field loss, and no pain, redness, or discharge. She had no past ocular or medical history, and was otherwise well.

On examination she had a visual acuity of 6/60 in the right eye, and 6/6 in the left eye. There was no external evidence of trauma; the lids were healthy, the conjunctiva white, the cornea clear, and the anterior chamber quiet. A mild vitreous haze obscured the foveal reflex, and clearly visible within the vitreous cavity was a live, mobile, white worm. There was no retinal abnormality.

One month later she underwent a three port pars plana vitrectomy, and the worm was coaxed into a flute needle and removed intact. The patient made an uncomplicated recovery from surgery. At 6 weeks postoperatively the eye was quiet and she had a visual acuity of 6/24. On detailed examination, the worm was identified as an adult female specimen of Thelazia callipaeda. Treatment with ivermectin is recommended for cases of thelaziasis, but in the absence of prooperative and postoperative
enable it to burrow through or bore its way into any body structure. Little is known about the life cycle of Thelazia. The intermediate host is Amiota variegata, a fly of the Drosophila family. It is known to infect the lacrimal sac, from where it passes into the conjunctival sac. It is probably deposited in the larval form by flies settling on the eyes and this accounts for extracocular infection. The adult worm in our patient’s eye was fully developed and healthy. It had caused little inflammatory response, and appeared to thrive in the conditions provided by the vitreous cavity, suggesting the possibility of immune privilege. We cannot explain how this worm entered the eye. We put forward the suggestion that humans may be the definitive host, with dogs and rabbits being the reservoir. For intraocular colonisation, the infective stage is probably the filariform larva, the portal of entry being the skin. An alternative mode of infection may be as the larva or embryonated egg ingested with raw drinking water.

COMMENT
Thelazia callipaeda (vìcìò, to suck) is a member of the phylum Nematoda, order Spirurida, suborder Spirurata, superfamily Spiruroidea. Adult worms look like creamy white threads; males are 4.5–13 mm long and 0.25–0.75 mm in diameter; females are larger, ranging from 6.2 to 17 mm in length and 0.3 to 0.85 mm in diameter (Fig 1). T. callipaeda is an unsegmented invertebrate with distinct oral and anal parts.3 The male is identifiable by its curved posterior (Fig 2A). In both the male and the female, the mouth is without lips (Fig 2B) and consists of two concentric rings of flattened papillae around a central opening. 

Macular dystrophy of malattia leventinese. A 25 year follow up

Editor,—Macular degeneration is a clinical term used to describe a variety of diseases characterised by progressive loss of central vision associated with abnormalities of Bruch’s membrane and the retinal epithelium. This dominantly inherited disorder, characterised by a radial pattern of innumerable small elongated basal laminar drusen, was initially reported in a family from the Leventine Valley (Switzerland).1,2 The gene responsible for autosomal dominant malattia leventinese has been mapped to the short arm of chromosome 2p16–21.3,4 We report the case of a woman who developed unusual complications associated with this disease during a 25 year follow up.

CASE REPORT
In 1973, ophthalmological examination led to a diagnosis of bilateral hereditary macular dystrophy (malattia leventinese) in a woman born in 1943. Her visual acuity was then 20/20 for both eyes without any correction (Fig 1A). In 1981, subfoveal neovascularisation led to an irreversible decrease in visual acuity in her right eye, down to 20/1000 (Fig 1B). In 1996, a dense right vitreous haemorrhage led to a further decrease in acuity. After resorption, fundus examination disclosed an advanced stage of the macular disease with irregular subretinal metaplasia, hyperplasia of the retinal pigment epithelium and discrete radial basal laminar drusen (Fig 2A). The fundus also showed a wedge-shaped superotemporal area with intraretinal haemorrhages, hard exudates, and sheathed vessels. The fluorescein angiogram showed telangiectatic vessels, shunt vessels, and microaneurysms, in addition to neovascularisation (Fig 2B). After laser photocoagulation, no further intraretinal haemorrhage episode occurred. The left eye had a visual acuity of 20/30 and fundus examination revealed a macula identical to that of the right eye, without complication.

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Acute central retinal vein occlusion successfully treated with intravenous thrombolysis

EDITOR—Central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) is a condition which often has profound effects on vision. At present there is little to offer patients in the form of treatment to preserve vision. The visual outcome is largely determined by the severity and duration of the vein occlusion. Management is currently aimed at preventing the complications secondary to retinal ischaemia. The incidence of fellow eye involvement with CRVO is believed to be in the order of 1%. We present a patient with “second eye” CRVO, who presented with acute reduction in vision and who responded dramatically to intravenous streptokinase.

CASE REPORT
A 75 year old white man noticed a sudden reduction in vision in his right eye while walking up a hill. He already had poor vision in his left eye from a CRVO 6 years earlier. He went immediately to eye casualty and was examined within 2 hours of the onset of symptoms. His only risk factor for vein occlusion was ocular hypertension treated with timoptol 0.25% twice daily to both eyes.

On examination, visual acuities were 6/36 right eye and counting fingers left eye, there was no relative afferent pupillary defect and intraocular pressures were 21 mm Hg in both eyes. Examination of the right fundus revealed scattered tiny blot haemorrhages and tortuous veins.

A fundus fluorescein angiogram showed pulsatile arterial filling with venous filling delayed until 34.6 seconds (Fig 1). A diagnosis of acute central retinal vein occlusion was made. Because of the previous left CRVO and the short history of symptoms in his right eye, the option of thrombolysis was carefully discussed with the patient, including the small risk of cerebral haemorrhage. Streptokinase, 1.5 ×10^6 units, was infused 7 hours after the onset of symptoms. Within 30 minutes, his visual acuity had improved to 6/9. The patient was empirically anticoagulated with heparin and warfarin, keeping the international normalised ratio between 2 and 3. Repeat fluorescein angiogram showed marked improvement in venous filling and loss of pulsatile arterial filling. In addition, several post thrombolysis haemorrhages were evident (Fig 2). The patient took warfarin for 9 months in total and now remains on aspirin alone. His vision in the right eye remains at 6/9.

COMMENT
Central retinal vein occlusion can profoundly affect vision and lead to neovascular complications. Current therapeutic options are limited mainly to the prevention or treatment of secondary complications.

Evidence for thrombus formation in CRVO has been reported by Green et al in a prospective histopathological study of patients with CRVO. They demonstrated recanalised thrombus in 89.7% of eyes and fresh thrombus formation in the remaining 10.3%.

Animal studies have shown encouraging responses to thrombolysis in experimental

Figure 1 Fundus fluorescein angiogram of the right eye demonstrating early venous filling 34.6 seconds after injection.
CRVO. Fibrinolysin given within 2 days of experimental vein occlusion in rabbits was shown to result in resolution of retinal haemorrhages and return of normal retinal circulation within 48 hours. Similar animal studies using recombinant tissue plasminogen activator shortly after experimentally induced vein occlusion resulted in significant retinal vein patency in treated eyes. In one randomised controlled clinical trial, patients with CRVO who received streptokinase followed by full anticoagulation within 7 days of onset of visual symptoms, showed a statistically significant improvement in visual acuity. Late presentation was identified as a possible cause of limited improvement in some cases. Reports of vitreous haemorrhage occurring during treatment (3/20 cases) together with the reported incidence of cerebral haemorrhage with streptokinase (57/13607 cases) account for the absence of a defined role of this drug in the treatment of vein occlusions.

Selective cannulation of a branch retinal vein and infusion of tissue plasminogen activator in a patient with a non-acute CRVO in the second eye has been described. Several other treatment modalities had already been tried unsuccessfully. While avoiding systemic complications, the treatment failed to show any objective improvement in visual acuity and the patient subsequently went on to develop angle neovascularisation. Clearly many vein occlusions present late, where irreversible retinal damage has occurred. We propose that only in those circumstances where the presentation is acute should the use of intravenous thrombolysis be considered.

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Retinitis pigmentosa with visual fluctuations and arrestin gene mutation

Editor,—We report a case of retinitis pigmentosa with day to day visual fluctuations and a mutation in the arrestin gene.

CASE REPORT

A 45 year old Japanese man first noticed night blindness at junior high school age, followed by a slowly progressive loss of visual acuities and fields. At presentation, the best visual acuity was 10/200 in each eye. Goldmann perimetry revealed generalised narrowing of the peripheral field and marked loss of central visual sensitivities. Bright flash electrotoretinogram (ERG) in a fully dark adapted state was not recordable in either eye. Ophthalmoscopies revealed advanced stage of retinitis pigmentosa (Fig 1). There was no Mizuo’s phenomenon1 in the fundus. This patient reported that he had felt relatively better vision (“good day”) on every other day that alternated with worse vision (“bad day”).

Furthermore, he claimed that bad day was repeated after physical stress or alcohol drinking, followed by a good day to return to the ordinary cycle. In our 10 years’ observation, the profile of day to day variation was reproducible. To quantitatively assess the characteristic visual symptoms, perimetric tests were performed in both the centre and periphery using an automated perimeter on eight different days in a period of 2 months, half on a good day and the other half on a bad day; ERG examinations were also performed. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the results, demonstrating that the visual sensitivity in the peripheral field varied in a manner consistent with the patient’s reports, although not obvious in the central field. In contrast with perimetry, ERG responses remained undetectable irrespective of visual fluctuations. His healthy parents were first cousins, and his elder brother had night blindness due to classic retinitis pigmentosa. Because of the mild mental retardation, the day to day visual fluctuations or other symptomatic variations could not be confirmed in his brother.

DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood after obtaining informed consent. Exon 11 of the arrestin gene was amplified using polymerase chain reaction.2 The amplified product was separated on polyacrylamide gel and revealed abnormally rapidly migrated signals suggesting a small deletion. Direct sequencing using an automated nucleotide sequencer (ALF Express, Pharmacia) disclosed a homozygous deletion of adenine at nucleotide 1147 (1147delA). This mutation

![Figure 1 Fundus in the right (A) and left (B) eye of the patient. There are diffuse choioretinal atrophies accompanied by numerous bone spicule pigments, attenuated retinal vessels, and pale optic discs.](Image)

![Figure 2 Visual field sensitivity, determined by an automated perimeter (Interzeag Octopus 101, low vision program) on different days. Representative visual field charts (right eye) obtained on a “good day” (left chart) and a “bad day” (right chart).](Image)
here had advanced retinitis pigmentosa and reported that he had experienced over the years alternating days of good and bad vision and that the day to day visual fluctuations had been modified by physical stress or alcohol drinking. Perimetric evaluations of this case demonstrated daily variability in visual sensitivities which corresponded to the subjective complaints. This form of visual fluctuation appears unusual, and it is remarkable that this patient had such a homozygous mutation in the arrestin gene that gives rise to a premature truncation of translation. The human arrestin, also known as S-antigen, has an inhibitory role in the activated phototransduction cascade. It should be mentioned that the arrestin gene is one of those expressed in the pineal gland that is considered to play a major role in the circadian rhythm. Thus, it is tempting to speculate that the mutation in the arrestin gene could have modified rhythmic activities to induce daily alternating visual fluctuations in the present retinitis pigmentosa patient. The full coding sequences of the rhodopsin gene were normal in the relevant patient (data not shown). However, we could not deny the association of different polymorphisms in related gene products, or different environmental influences on the daily alternating visual fluctuations.

Recent molecular assessments revealed families with diffuse retinitis pigmentosa with or without features of Oguchi’s disease harboring 1147 delA in the arrestin gene. The patient described here provides additional evidence that the same arrestin gene mutation is causally related not only to Oguchi’s disease but also to autosomal recessive retinitis pigmentosa. It is emphasised that our patient had classic features of autosomal recessive retinitis pigmentosa with poor visual prognosis and showed unusual visual fluctuations. In view of a rare mutation of arrestin gene, the relevant retinitis pigmentosa might be extremely rare. In a large series of white patients with aetiology of undefined retinitis pigmentosa arrestin gene mutation was not detected.

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Orbital Kimura’s disease in a white child

EDITOR,—Kimura’s disease is an uncommon, chronic inflammatory disorder of unknown aetiology which occurs predominantly in orientals and presents with tumour-like swellings mainly in the head and neck region. The condition primarily involves the subcutaneous tissues, parotid glands, and/or lymph nodes. Orbital cases are infrequent and most reported cases are in adults, with only one case in a child of Afro-Caribbean descent.1 Our case report presents orbital Kimura’s disease in an 8 year old white child.

CASE REPORT
An 8 year old white girl presented to us with a 4 week history of a painless swelling of her right upper lid. She initially had an upper respiratory tract infection lasting a month which was treated by her general practitioner with Augmentin. She subsequently developed what appeared to be a right sided ptosis. Of note, she had a strong history of allergic eye disease with intermittent conjunctivitis, and also suffers from asthma for which she takes Pulmicort and Bricanyl inhaler regularly. Examination revealed a right ptosis, mild right proptosis, and a palpable, painless mass in the superior aspect of her right orbit. There were no pupillary abnormalities, her extraocular movements were full, and fundoscopic examination was unremarkable. There was no associated regional lymphadenopathy and the rest of the oculcar and general physical examination showed no other abnormalities.

Investigations done included a full blood count, which was within normal limits. WBC 8.57 ×10⁹/μl with a differential of neutrophils 62%, lymphocytes 26%, monocytes 6%, eosinophils 5%, and basophils 1%. A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan with

Figure 4  Direct sequencing results of exon 11 of the arrestin gene in the reported case, demonstrating a homozygous deletion of adenine at nucleotide 1147 (arrowhead).
Kimura’s disease (or angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia) is a chronic inflammatory disorder of unknown aetiology which presents with tumour-like swellings mainly in the head and neck region. Most cases have been described in China and Japan, with relatively fewer cases reported in non-orientals. The disease typically affects males in the 20–40 year age group, and presents as single or multiple smooth swellings in the subcutaneous tissues, major salivary gland and/or lymph nodes in the head and neck area.

Histopathologically, the features described in previous cases corresponded with ours; there are eosinophilic infiltrates (mainly in a perivascular pattern), vascular proliferation, fibrosis, and formation of lymphoid follicles. It is still uncertain as to whether it represents a benign lymphoid neoplastic process, a variant of haemangioma or an allergic reaction. There have been no reported cases of malignant change or fatalities. There is usually an insidious onset with a long benign course, but recurrences are common after surgical excision. Systemic associations include asthma and nephrotic syndrome. Regional lymphadenopathy ranges from 50–75% of cases and there is a high occurrence of peripheral blood eosinophilia.

Cases of Kimura’s disease have been reported in the orbits; however, there was only one previously reported orbital case in a child (of Afro-Caribbean descent). To our knowledge, this is the first orbital case reported in a white child. Non-orbital cases of Kimura’s disease have been treated with surgical excision, radiation and steroid therapy. After active therapy, they tend to recur. Cases have been conservatively managed for up to 12 years successfully although the cosmetic deformity can be quite a handicap. Periorbital cases have so far been treated successfully with surgical excision and biopsy with debulking. Oral steroids or intralesional injection with steroids have not been as successful. There was only one reported case of severe haemorrhage on surgical resection. Complete surgical excision appears to be the best treatment.

COMMENT

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Figure 2  Section showing vascular proliferation with eosinophilic and lymphocytic perivascular inflammation and fibrosis. Haematoxylin and eosin stain. Original magnification ×200.
vitreal aminoglycosides we recommend the use of ceftazidime instead of amikacin or gentamicin.

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Simultaneous administration of hepatitis B and polio vaccines associated with bilateral optic neuritis

EDITOR,—Immunisation against hepatitis B is recom-
mended when there is an increased risk of contracting the virus because of lifestyle, occupation, or factors such as close contact with a case. Immunisation against poliomyel-
tis is routine in infants in the UK with reinforcement during childhood and then again in the teenage years. For those individu-
als at continued risk of infection, further rein-
forceing doses are given every 10 years.

Both are commonly used vaccines and seri-
ous adverse reactions are extremely rare. We describe a case of severe bilateral, progressive optic neuritis occurring 1 week after vaccina-
tion against hepatitis B and poliomyelitis.

CASE REPORT

A 44 year old female health worker presented with gradual reduction of vision in both eyes associated with retrobulbar discomfort excer-
bated by ocular movement, 7 days after vac-
cination against hepatitis B and poliomyelitis. Ophthalmological findings revealed visual acuities of 6/18 right eye, 6/12 left eye associ-
ated with bilateral optic nerve swelling. Within the next 48 hours the visual acuities dropped to perception of light in both eyes with absent direct and indirect pupillary light responses. This was despite commencement of therapy with intravenous methylprednisolone.

Systemic examination revealed no other abnor-
malities. All haematological and biochemical investigations were normal and no infective cause was isolated. Computed tomograph imaging was normal and there was no evidence of demyelination on magnetic reso-
nance imaging. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) examination revealed no abnormality either biochemically, after culture, or on electro-
phoresis. In addition, CSF pressure was within normal limits. Visually evoked poten-
tials revealed absent responses. Despite 5 days of intravenous methylprednisolone (1 g per day) followed by a slow tapering e of oral pre-
adnisolone (1 mg/kg/day) her vision remained poor (counting fingers at 1 metre in both eyes) after 3 months.

COMMENT

The recombinant hepatitis B vaccine has been associated with a diverse range of isolated adverse reactions but ocular complications are exceedingly rare. Granel et al attributed four cases of central retinal vein occlusion in patients under 50 years of age to the vaccine, and associations with multiple evanescent white dot syndrome (MEWDS) and acute posterior multifocal placoid pigment epide-
lithiopathy (APMPPE) have been described. The recombinant vaccine contains a hypervariable region from HBsAg which may share an antigenic determinant with retroviruses, and may cause ocular inflammation by a mechanism similar to that described for CMV. The fact that there are many case
reports including CNS demyelination. Bil-
ateral optic neuritis occurs occasionally in acute hepatitis B infection.

Vaccines derived from live attenuated viruses such as the trivalent oral polio vaccine can cause direct viral infections of the central nervous system. The incidence of vaccine derived paralytic poliomyelitis is reported as being one in three million in recipients of the vaccine or their close contacts. The vaccine has also been linked to some cases of Guillain–Barré syndrome but ocular complications have not been reported.

Others such as the trivalent measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and the monovalent rubella vaccine, have also been associated with bilateral optic neuritis.

The exact mechanism by which neurological complications following vaccination are un-
known but various hypotheses exist including immune complex mediated demyelination or neurotoxicity, antigen mimicry between the stimulating vaccine derived antigen and nor-
mal or altered host tissue proteins, immediate hypersensitivity reactions, and stimulation of a pathologic lymphocyte response.

Acute neurological reactions generally occur 1–3 weeks following vaccination which supports the claim that vaccination was the aetiological factor in this case. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of this complication with either of the above mentioned vaccines. The fact that there are many case reports describing a diverse variety of systemic reactions of an autoimmune nature associated with both vaccines also adds to the claim. Those cases of optic neuritis attributed to other vaccines and to post infectious optic neuritis generally did better with cortico-
steroid therapy than in our case but high dose corticosteroids are generally considered to be the treatment of choice in these rare but potentially devastating complications.

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EDITOR,—While the antimalarial drug chloroquine has frequently been reported to cause retinopathy, there have been very few documented cases occurring with hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil, Winthrop Pharmaceuticals, New York, USA). Patients may tolerate large cumulative doses (up to 3923 g) of hydroxychloroquine without developing retinopathy. Doses of ≤400 mg/day and ≤6.5 mg/kg of body weight/day of hydroxychloroquine have been used safely and some authors have suggested that ophthalmic screening is not necessary for patients on these doses. We present a case of hydroxychloroquine toxicity that developed in a patient after long term use of 400 mg (6.3 mg/kg) of hydroxychloroquine daily.

CASE REPORT
A 61 year old white woman presented with a 1 year history of increased glare in both eyes without change in visual acuity. She had a history of rheumatoid arthritis for which she took hydroxychloroquine 400 mg daily (6.3 mg/kg/day) for 10 years. Her total hydroxychloroquine dose was 1460 g. The patient had never taken chloroquine and had no history of macular disease. Her weight had been stable over the 10 year period. Family history was negative for macular dystrophy or retinal degeneration. Visual acuity at presentation was 20/20 in both eyes. Colour vision testing with pseudoisochromatic plates was normal in both eyes. Fundus examination showed subtle retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) pigmentary changes in a crescent pattern around the inferior fovea of both eyes (Fig 1A). Fluorescein angiogram confirmed the fundus findings (Fig 1B) which were felt to be early bull’s eye maculopathy. No drusen or signs of macular degeneration were appreciated in either eye. A central visual field performed with Humphrey automated static threshold perimeter using a white test object revealed bilateral paracentral ring scotoma corresponding to the macular pigmentary changes (Fig 2, upper). A diagnosis of hydroxychloroquine retinopathy was established and the drug was discontinued.

Ten months later the patient’s vision remained 20/20 with normal colour vision in both eyes. Her symptom of glare in both eyes had resolved. The RPE changes in the retina were unchanged and visual field testing showed some improvement of the paracentral scotoma (Fig 2, lower).

COMMENT
Hydroxychloroquine retinopathy is a rare condition characterised by bull’s eye maculopathy or pigmentary changes in the macula, corresponding scotomas on visual field testing, and irreversible signs and symptoms once hydroxychloroquine is stopped. Cases of preretinopathy have been described in which visual field defects were elicited using a red test object but not a white test object on Humphrey perimeter. All cases of preretinopathy completely resolved after the discontinuation of hydroxychloroquine. Five cases of true hydroxychloroquine retinopathy reported in the literature demonstrated that discontinuation of hydroxychloroquine resulted in stabilisation but not resolution of the retinopathy. Unlike the other reported cases of true hydroxychloroquine retinopathy, our patient had some resolution of visual field loss. Much controversy exists as to whether the daily or cumulative dose of hydroxychloroquine contributes the greater risk for retinopathy. While there have been reported cases of hydroxychloroquine toxicity at cumulative doses similar to our patient’s (1460 g over a 10 year period), these patients had (1) received chloroquine therapy before hydroxychloroquine, (2) were treated with daily chloroquine without developing retinopathy, or (3) exceeded a daily hydroxychloroquine dosage of 400 mg/day or 6.5 mg/kg of body weight/day.

References
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Figure 2 (Upper) Pattern standard deviation as calculated by Humphrey 10-2 automated static perimeter at presentation showing bilateral paracentral scotoma. (Lower) Follow up visual fields 10 months after cessation of hydroxychloroquine therapy showing partial resolution of the scotoma.

Figure 1 (A) Colour fundus photograph of the right eye at presentation showing subtle pigmentary changes (arrows) of the retinal pigment epithelium inferior to the fovea. (B) Fluorescein angiogram of the right eye demonstrating transmission defects inferior to the fovea consistent with toxicity.
Danlos syndrome with reduced scleral rigidity.

Reduced vision loss occurring as a complication of antiproliferative use and avascular filtration blebs with signs of hypotony as evidenced by bilateral IOP of 0 mm Hg, superficial corneal epithelial staining and macular and choroidal folds. Both optic discs were swollen although no haemorrhages or cotton wool spots were observed. The patient was sensitive to light and good quality photographs could not be obtained. An ultrasound showed bilateral anterotemporal choroidal detachments involving the ciliary body (right larger than left) and axial lengths recorded as 23.0 mm in both eyes.

She underwent several surgical procedures. The day after she first presented, she underwent a right subconjunctival autologous blood injection to the right bleb under general anaesthesia. The following day, however, her vision was worse with visual acuities being recorded as patchy areas of perception of light on the right and hand movements temporally on the left. Her IOPs were 4 and 0 mm Hg in the right and left respectively and the former degree of disc swelling (as judged by further elevation of the disc) was noted bilaterally. It was considered by a neurologist (GTP) that the disc swelling may itself be contributing to the visual loss, particularly as there were persistent visual obscurations which suggested critically impaired perfusion of the disc. To prevent further visual loss, an anterior chamber pressure was reduced, and over the next few days improved gradually. Seven days after presentation, her IOPs had fallen to 0 and 8 mm Hg, right and left respectively, and she was taken back to theatre for anterior chamber refilling with Healon-GV. Her IOPs remained around 20 mm Hg again 10 days later, with decreasing disc swelling, and a repeat ultrasound showed reduced choroidal detachments and axial lengths of 24.8 mm in the right and 24.6 mm in the left.

She underwent another further surgical procedure, 7 weeks after presentation, when her IOPs became elevated again at 35 and 28 mm Hg right and left respectively, to a degree where it was felt her optic discs would be compromised. Treatment consisted of needling procedures to both blebs with subconjunctival injections of 5-fluorouracil to reduce scar formation. Her IOPs responded very quickly to this final procedure and she remains on no antiglaucoma medication with normal intraocular pressures (less than 20 mm Hg) now 7 months after presentation. Both drainage blebs are Seidel negative with no disc swelling apparent at 2 months (top right). Postoperatively, Hypotony induced papilloedema resolved after surgery with no disc swelling apparent in right (bottom left) or left (bottom right) funds, shown 7 months postoperatively.

CASE REPORT

A 12 year old girl was referred to Moorfields Eye Hospital for a second opinion regarding her deteriorating vision following bilateral trabeculectomies with adjuvant mitomycin C for raised intraocular pressure.

At the age of 5 years, she was diagnosed with having megalocornea with ocular hypertelorism. Two years later, because of the persistent degree of IOP elevation (between 30–40 mm Hg), she was commenced on bilateral medical treatment. However, at the age of 11, she developed such severe problems with her topical treatment that surgery was considered necessary. In May 1996 right and subsequently left trabeculectomies were performed and during the procedures subconjunctival mitomycin C (0.3 mg/ml) was applied for 5 minutes. Her postoperative recovery was complicated by the development of ocular hypotony.

She was seen at Moorfields for the first time with progressive bilateral vision loss and recent onset of transient obscurations, 5 months after her filtration surgery and the onset of hypotony. Her visual acuities had fallen from right eye 20/20 (~0.5–0.25 × 180°) to hand movements (HM) and left eye 20/30 (~1.5 DS) to counting fingers (CF). Her visual fields on confrontation with a red target showed an enlarged blind spot. Both eyes had large, draining diffuse and avascular filtration blebs with signs of hypotony as evidenced by bilateral IOPs of 0 mm Hg, superficial corneal epithelial staining striae, and macular and choroidal folds. Both optic discs were swollen although no haemorrhages or cotton wool spots were observed. The patient was sensitive to light and good quality photographs could not be obtained. An ultrasound showed bilateral anterotemporal choroidal detachments involving the ciliary body (right larger than left) and axial lengths recorded as 23.0 mm in both eyes.

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The day after surgery, the fourth day after initial presentation, examination revealed improved visual acuities of HM in both eyes with IOPs of 19 and 23 mm Hg in the right and left eye respectively. The disc swelling was felt to be reduced, and continued to reduce, and the next few days improved gradually. Seven days after presentation, her IOPs had fallen to 0 and 8 mm Hg, right and left respectively, and she was taken back to theatre for anterior chamber filling with Healon-GV. Her IOPs remained around 20 mm Hg again 10 days later, with decreasing disc swelling, and a repeat ultrasound showed reduced choroidal detachments and axial lengths of 24.8 mm in the right and 24.6 mm in the left.

She underwent another further surgical procedure, 7 weeks after presentation, when her IOPs became elevated again at 35 and 28 mm Hg right and left respectively, to a degree where it was felt her optic discs would be compromised. Treatment consisted of needling procedures to both blebs with subconjunctival injections of 5-fluorouracil to reduce scar formation. Her IOPs responded very quickly to this final procedure and she remains on no antiglaucoma medication with normal intraocular pressures (less than 20 mm Hg) now 7 months after presentation. Both drainage blebs are Seidel negative with good evidence of aqueous drainage into the filtration blebs (Fig 1, top right). Her visual acuities and visual function have now recovered quite substantially. However she does have a relative afferent pupillary defect in the left eye, and her current refraction and visual acuities are right eye ~1.0–4.0 × 0.5° (RVA 20/30) and left eye ~1.75–6.5 × 180° (LVA 20/120). Her optic discs show no evidence of swelling, and she has neither choroidal detachments nor macular folds (Fig 1, bottom left and right) as confirmed on ultrasound.

COMMENT

This young girl presented to us with severe ocular hypotony following bilateral primary glaucoma filtration surgery with mitomycin C. She developed vision loss, with episodes of transient obscurations attributable to hypotony and disc swelling. Her response to the initial surgery and subsequently to the corrective...
surgical procedures made us suspect that she had an inherent problem in wound healing and scleral rigidity, especially as she displayed such dramatic changes in axial lengths (1.6–1.8 mm difference in pre- and postoperative lengths). We therefore wondered if she had an underlying connective tissue disorder.

She was found to have Ehlers-Danlos syndrome type II (EDS II). Examination revealed her to have joint hypermobility (Fig 2), with a high joint hypermobility score (Table 1) of 7/9. In addition, she showed evidence of skin striae in the lumbar region, thighs and breasts with a papyraceous scar on her right knee, and gave a history of bruising easily with prolonged bleeding when cut. Echocardiography however was normal, with a normal palate, no spinal defects, no arachnodactyly, and a normal arm span to height ratio. However, there was a strong family history of joint hypermobility.

EDS is a heterogeneous group of genetically determined disorders of connective tissue affecting skin, ligaments, joints, blood vessels, and internal organs, of which at least nine subtypes exist, with the following diagnostic triad: extensible skin, ligaments, joints, blood vessels, and internal organs, of which at least nine subtypes exist, with the following diagnostic triad: extensible skin (extreme examples being the “elastic skin man” of the 19th century), connective tissue fragility, and hypermobile joints. Although ocular complications in EDS are mostly associated with EDS type VI, a few ocular problems in EDS II have been documented such as prominent epicanthal folds, redundant skin on the upper eyelid, blue sclera, and the absence of periorbital fat.

The wound healing process in EDS II is known to be abnormal in the skin because of the anomalous development of scar formation due to aberrant collagen fibrils. An abnormal healing response to the initial filtration surgery in this young girl might have been exaggerated with the use of mitomycin C. Cutaneous wounds in EDS II initially appear with gaping edges—so called “fish mouths” and heal slowly, and when scar formation eventually occurs, are characteristically shiny and stretched—papyraceous. Our findings on initial exploration of the surgical site in the eye, in this case, revealed a friable, disintegrating scleral flap which would have permitted unguarded passage of aqueous into the subconjunctival space—hence the occurrence of hypotony when combined with a non-healing conjunctiva.

Ocular hypotony is associated with various complications including hypotony maculopathy, resulting in a permanent reduction in vision and acuity. This occurrence has previously been attributed to reduced scleral rigidity, as seen in young and myopic eyes where a reduction in axial length has been documented following filtration surgery. Another mechanism put forward for the vision loss in these eyes, has been compression of the submacular sclera due to the resting tone of the inferior oblique muscle and decreased scleral rigidity. The incidence of post filtration ocular hypotony following full thickness procedures is 17–41%. This incidence was reduced significantly with the advent of guarded, partial thickness techniques, but the recent introduction of antiscarring agents such as mitomycin C and 5-fluourouracil has led to its increase once again. We believe that our patient had a complex and extreme response to filtration surgery with adjunction mitomycin C complicated by her reduced scleral rigidity secondary to EDS II, as evidenced by her large eyes and marked changes in axial length in association with reduction in intraocular pressure.

The development of severe vision loss in our patient was associated with the occurrence of transient obstructions and hypotonous disc swelling. Resolution of the disc swelling was 4–6 weeks after correction of the hypotony, and improvement in visual acuity was noted thereafter. Its natural history—that is, the pattern of resolution and visual recovery, is compatible with disc swelling. Visual loss associated with hypotonous maculopathy, however, may never recover despite reversal of hypotony. Prolonged disc swelling in ocular hypotony is a recognised complication that is fortunately very rare. Experimental models have suggested that axoplasmic transport is delayed in cases of hypotony induced optic disc swelling giving rise to the same features histologically as seen with raised intracranial pressure papilloedema—for example, axonal swelling, accumulation of mitochondria, and cytoplasmic body (cotton wool spots) formation.

The pathogenesis of disc swelling in ocular hypotony may be related to that occurring in raised intracranial pressure if it is postulated that in both situations the CSF pressure in the subarachnoid space around the optic nerve exceeds the perfusion pressure of the optic disc. Therefore in our patient, it was considered that lowering the CSF pressure to well below normal levels (<20 mm H₂O) might provide temporary improvement in the optic disc perfusion—hence our target for a very low closing pressure of 5.5 mm H₂O in the lumbar puncture. Two previous reports of unilateral disc swelling following trabeculectomy also suggest that optic disc oedema could result from a disturbed equilibrium between ICP and IOP—though none of the patients described in these papers had hypotony or profound vision loss.

The development of profound vision loss in association with hypotony induced optic disc swelling in our patient, was as a complication of mitomycin C assisted glaucoma filtration surgery. However, the degree of hypotony was most probably related to reduced scleral rigidity. We believe that her abnormal wound healing response and defective connective tissue contributed to the severity of the hypotony that followed initial surgery with mitomycin C. We suggest that antiproliferatives be used with extreme caution in patients who you suspect may have a connective tissue disorder. A quick screening procedure might include a joint hypermobility score as shown in Table 1. Patients with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, such as our patient, may be at high risk of post filtration hypotony and developing “soft eyes” with sight threatening sequelae, as our case suggests that not only might they have elastic skin but also “elastic globes”.

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Table 1 Screen for joint hypermobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Score (maximum = 9)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive hyperflexion of 5th metacarpophalangeal joint beyond 90°</td>
<td>1 point each hand (max = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive hyperextension of thumb to flexor aspect of wrist</td>
<td>1 point each hand (max = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperextension of elbow beyond 100°</td>
<td>1 point each arm (max = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperextension of knee beyond 10°</td>
<td>1 point each leg (max = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forward flexion of trunk, palms flat on floor in front, knees in extension</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 Our patient demonstrates joint hypermobility, a feature of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. She can assume both thumbs to the flexor aspect of her wrist (top left), fold her fingers one over the other (top right), bend over to place her palms flat on the floor keeping her knees extended (bottom left), and put her ankles around her head (bottom right).
intracranial internal carotid artery at the level of the posterior communicating artery. Attempted embolisation of the aneurysm failed owing to a focal stenosis at the origin of the right internal carotid artery and the patient underwent uneventful clipping of the aneurysm instead. There was a rapid improvement in the ophthalmoplegia following clipping and 6 weeks postoperatively all the neurological signs had resolved.

COMMENT
The early recognition of oculomotor nerve compression by a posterior communicating artery aneurysm is essential given that the mean interval between the onset of diplopia and blinding is 4 weeks in patients who develop a subarachnoid haemorrhage. Although the retro-ocular pain was typical, this case is unusual for two reasons. Firstly the ptosis and ophthalmoplegia were notably variable (Fig 1). Secondly, episodes of right upper lid retraction, esotropia, and hypertropia were observed (Fig 1). Although modest variability of symptoms (for example, intermittent diplopia) has previously been described, we can find no reports in the literature of such marked fluctuations in ptosis due to third nerve compression. Furthermore, in this case upper lid retraction and, on eye movement testing, esotropia and hypertropia—that is, excessive activity in the third nerve innervated muscles, was observed. A similar phenomenon of co-existing inappropriate neural discharge and block is seen in hemifacial spasm where compression of the seventh nerve by abnormal vessels produces hemifacial spasm and mild facial weakness. Although there is some controversy as to whether it is the mechanical irritation of the facial nerve or secondary hyperexcitability of the facial nerve nucleus that is responsible for hemifacial spasm,1 it is now accepted by most authors that compression of the facial nerve is the causative factor. A precise intraoperative correlation between decompression of the facial nerve and electromyographic disappearance of abnormal facial muscle activity has been demonstrated although the facial weakness has been reported to take longer to resolve. An analogous situation of aneurysm compression causing alternating ophthalmoplegia and third nerve hypertropia in normal vision has been reported previously.6 Our case reported here is suggested by the similar course of resolution to that seen following decompression of the facial nerve for hemifacial spasm—the third nerve hyperactivity resolved immediately following clipping of the aneurysm while the ophthalmoplegia improved rapidly but took several weeks to resolve fully. The degree of third nerve hyperactivity was, however, much greater than the mild facial weakness seen in hemifacial spasm and may have been due to the greater degree of compression of the third nerve in this case.

This case is important for two reasons. Firstly, this is the first report of compression of the third cranial nerve producing alternating oculomotor hypo- and hyperfunction as a result of a compressive lesion. Secondly, it emphasises the importance of excluding compression by intracranial aneurysm in a patient with variable signs which could be explained by a partial third nerve palsy.

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Late onset of Leber’s hereditary optic neuropathy in HIV infection

EDITOR,—We report a case of late onset of Leber’s hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON) in a 59 year old patient with HIV infection being treated long term since 1991 with zidovudine. The onset and course of the patient’s eye disease as well as the diagnostic process were analysed. Molecular genetic testing revealed the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) mutation in nucleotide position 11778 confirming the diagnosis of LHON. In our patient late disease expression may be interpreted as a result of the rare combination of the 11778 mutation with HIV infection and long term zidovudine treatment. This is the first report on a patient with LHON suffering from additional HIV infection.

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Figure 1 (Top) Right ptosis with frontal overaction and right hypertropia. (Middle) Right ptosis has resolved. (Bottom) A few minutes later there is right upper lid retraction and right hypertropia indicating right third nerve hyperfunction.
A 59 year old white man was admitted to our outpatient department in July 1997 with acute onset of vision loss in his left eye within the previous 2 weeks. The patient had been diagnosed with HIV infection in 1991. No opportunistic infections defining AIDS had been present so far. Antiretroviral therapy consisted of zidovudine since June 1991 as well as additional indinavir and nevirapine since January 1997. Best corrected visual acuity was right eye 20/20 and left eye 6/20. Further ophthalmological examination revealed a left afferent papillary defect and an absolute central scotoma in the left eye. Indocyanine green angiography and fluorescein angiography disclosed a slight oedema of the optic disc without leakage. Visual evoked potentials (VEP) of the left eye showed reduced central amplitudes and prolonged latencies. Ophthalmic examination of the right eye at the time of presentation was normal. (LHON). Therefore the patient was specifically asked for past or present additional medical or environmental factors postulated to trigger LHON. The patient denied any alcohol or tobacco exposure. Exposure to chemicals, toxins, or dangerous factory processes was not reported. Significantly larger amounts of foods with high cyanide content were not described. Additional metabolic or neurological diseases were not present.

COMMENT
LHON is a bilateral acute or subacute optic neuropathy caused by mutations in the mitochondrial DNA. It has been reported in association with serious neurological disease. It has been reported in association with hydrocephalus. They may have a meningomyelocoele or encephalocele, and an A-pattern esotropia. 3 In cases of comitant esotropia associated with shunt failure, all the esotropias resolve when the shunts are revised. These patients do not have A-pattern esotropia at presentation. LHON patients generally have obvious neurological problems associated with hydrocephalus, and are not a diagnostic dilemma. They may have a meningomyelocoele or encephalocele, and an A-pattern esotropia.

Acute onset comitant esotropia as presenting sign of demyelinating disease

Acute onset comitant esotropia is most commonly benign when occurring in infancy or early childhood. Examination to rule out a parietic deviation is essential. However, acute onset of comitant esotropia has also been reported in association with serious neurological disease. It has been reported in association with hydrocephalus. These patients generally have obvious neurological problems associated with hydrocephalus, and are not a diagnostic dilemma. They may have a meningomyelocoele or encephalocele, and an A-pattern esotropia.
esotropias. Patients may not necessarily present with papilloedema even when hydrocephalus is present. In the present case, no hydrocephalus was noted on neuroradiographic study.

Arnold-Chiari malformation has also been reported in association with acute comitant esotropia. These cases may present with an A-pattern, co-existing nystagmus and hydrocephalus. Arnold-Chiari malformations sometimes do not manifest until late childhood or adulthood, and can be mild. Neuroradiographic study did not reveal Arnold-Chiari malformation in this patient.

Central nervous system tumours have also been reported in association with acute onset comitant esotropia. Tumours in this group include cerebellar astrocytomas, and medulloblastomas, as well as pontine gliomas. An A-pattern esotropia is unusual in these patients. In a report by Williams and Hoyt, three of their six patients had some form of nystagmus associated with the comitant esotropia. They suggested neurological evaluation in any patient with both nystagmus and acute comitant esotropia. Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis is generally post viral and is characterised by abrupt headache, fever, drowsiness, and focal neurological dysfunction. Cerebrospinal fluid analysis may exhibit pleocytosis. It may resolve completely or may result in permanent impairment and seizures. Whether this lesion represents a localised variant of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis or multiple sclerosis is not clear. However, cases of acute onset comitant esotropia with suspicious presentations warrant neuroimaging to rule out intracranial pathology including central nervous system demyelinating lesions.

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