Peripapillary coloboma simulating double optic disc

EDITOR,—Doubling of the optic disc is rare and can manifest as true or pseudo doubling. A 64 year old man was referred by his physician who noted “a clear area between each optic disc on both sides” during a routine check. Visual acuities and anterior segments were normal. Funduscopys revealed an appearance simulating double optic discs on each side. The right eye showed a 2 disc diameter (DD) sized pale excavation 1 DD below the optic disc inferotemporally (Fig 1A), with patchy pigmentation along the margins. The inferotemporal branches of retinal vessels dipped into the lesion before re-emerging. The left eye also revealed a similar but slightly larger (3 DD) lesion 1 DD below the optic disc, the two being connected by parallel retinal vessels (Fig 1B). These vessels bifurcated just above the inferior lesion before dipping into its excavation and emerging to supply the inferior retina. The retina surrounding these lesions was hypopigmented. On fluorescein angiography the inferior disc-like lesions were hypofluorescent in the early frames (Fig 1C) and on late frames the entire lesion showed scleral staining (Fig 1D). B-scan ultrasound revealed ectatic coloboma inferior to the optic discs.

Figure 1  Gross persistent pupillary membrane in the eye

The membrane is not adherent to the lens capsule. It bulges forward into the anterior chamber when the pupil constricts to light and is flat with the pupil dilated (see Fig 1). The ocular fundi are normal.

It is interesting that in the presence of this gross pupillary abnormality visual acuity is unaffected with no significant visual deprivation amblyopia.

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BOOK REVIEWS


This book is designed principally as a reference for surgeons engaged in cosmetic blepharoplasty work, but also covers forehead, eyebrow and facelifts, and adjunctive treatments such as chemical and laser skin resurfacing. Despite this, there is an enormous amount of information within this volume that is extremely useful for those engaged in oculoplastic work outside the aesthetic field. There is no reason at all why surgery for functional abnormalities should not be planned with regard to the eventual cosmetic result and the two aims are often coincidental. Most surgeons will be able to find a lot of helpful advice...
that can be used in improving the results of surgery for ectropion or for lid retraction or involutional ptosis.

This book has contributions from a number of different authors, but is prolifically illustrated throughout by the same artist, with great clarity, lending a cohesion to the volume which is reinforced by introductions to each chapter from the principal author.

Each chapter tends to explore one particular surgical technique, with clear step by step instructions. Many stages, such as excision of orbital fat prolapse, are common to a number of different procedures and are described in similar detail in several chapters; this leads to much repetition if one is reading the book from end to end, but is very helpful in reducing the number of cross references if it is being used as a surgical manual.

Although the main part of the book is devoted to surgical techniques, there are a number of extremely useful chapters on more general topics such as the assessment of the ocularplastic patient, patient selection, and the factors involved in determining patient satisfaction with the outcome of treatment. People presenting for cosmetic surgery often have high expectations of what surgery has to offer and a low tolerance of suboptimal results, but they are not necessarily very different from patients seeking other forms of reconstructive surgery and much of the advice on preoperative assessment, counselling, and communication is widely applicable to much of ophthalmology.

This is a very usable surgical textbook that offers ample information and advice to enable most oculoplastic surgeons to feel confident to extend and modify their repertoire to give their patients the optimum results functionally and aesthetically. It manages to achieve this while challenging us to look hard at the way we practise and the way we relate to our patients.

COLIN HUTCHINSON


This book is one component of the Lifelong Education for the Ophthalmologist (LEO) framework, produced by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Those not claiming educational objectives which are largely met by the text, but one has the impression that its message is widely applicable to much of ophthalmology.

This is a very usable surgical textbook that offers ample information and advice to enable most oculoplastic surgeons to feel confident to extend and modify their repertoire to give their patients the optimum results functionally and aesthetically. It manages to achieve this while challenging us to look hard at the way we practise and the way we relate to our patients.

Christine M Dickson

NOTICES

External eye infections
The latest issue of Community Eye Health (no 30) discusses external infections of the eye. Included are papers on conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer, and transmission and control of infection. For further information please contact Community Eye Health, International Centre for Eye Health, Institute of Ophthalmology, 11–43 Bath Street, London EC1V 9EL. Tel: (+44) 171 608 6909/6910/6923; fax: (+44) 171 250 3207; email: eyeresource@ucl.ac.uk.

Residents’ Foreign Exchange Programme
Any resident interested in spending a period of up to one month in departments of ophthalmology in the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, or Portugal should apply to: Mr Robert Acheson, Secretary of the Foreign Exchange Committee, European Board of Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College Dublin, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Cretel
An international symposium on the macula will be held on 1–2 October 1999 at the Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Cretel. Further details: Professor G. Soubrane, Chef de Service, Clinique Ophthalmologique Universitaire de Cretel, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, 40 Avenue de Verdun, 94100 Creteil, France (fax: 01 45 17 52 27).

Jules François Prize
The 2000 Jules François Prize of $100 000 for scientific research in ophthalmology will be awarded to a young scientist who has made an important contribution to ophthalmology. All topics in the field of fundamental and/or clinical research in ophthalmology will be considered. The application should be sent jointly with a curriculum vitae, the list of all publications, and three copies of the candidate’s ten most relevant publications to Jules François Foundation Secretary, Professor Dr M Hanssen, Dienst Oogheelkunde, de Pantaal 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium. Deadline for applications 31 December 1999.

Joachim Kuhlmann Fellowship for Ophthalmologists 2000
The Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Essen, Germany, is sponsoring two fellowships per year for ophthalmologists at a well known institute, who want to train in CMV retinitis and other HIV related ophthalmological diseases. The fellowships are valued at US$5000 each. Deadlines for applications are 31 January and 31 July. Detailed applications, including CV and publication list, should be sent to the Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Bismarckstrasse 55, 45128 Essen, Germany (tel: 0201 87910-87; fax: 0201 87910-99; email: jk-stiftung@t-online.de).

XXXIV Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology
The XXXIV Nordic Congress of Ophthalmology will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 18–21 June 2000. This meeting celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the Nordic Ophthalmology Conference. Further details: Iceland Incentives Inc, Hamraborg 1–3, Is-Kopavogur, Iceland (tel: +354 554 1400; fax: +354 554 1472; email: incentiv@tin.is).

Vth Mediterranean Ophthalmological Society
The combined meeting of the Vth Mediterranean Ophthalmological Society and the Vth Michelsson Symposium on Ocular Circulation and Neovascularisation will be...
held in Jerusalem on 21–26 May 2000. Further details: Secretariat, c/o Unitours Israel Ltd, PO Box 3190, 61031 Tel Aviv, Israel (tel: +972-3-5209999; fax: +972-3-5239099; email: meetings@unitours.co.il).

The VIth Michaelson medal and award will be delivered on 24 May 2000 in Jerusalem. The medal and award ($15 000 monetary prize) are sponsored by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and by the Hadassah Hebrew University Hospital and Medical School of Jerusalem, Israel. Nominations are sought from the ophthalmic community at large. Suggestions and reasons for choice and CV highlights should be sent to Professor David BenEzra, Secretary for the International Nominating Committee, Pediatric Ophthalmology Unit, Hadassah Hebrew University Hospital, PO Box 12000, Jerusalem 91120, Israel.

5th International Viteoretinal Meeting–IV 2000
The 5th International Viteoretinal Meeting–IV 2000 will be held in Parma, Italy, on 26–27 May 2000. The main topics will include “Hypotony and glaucoma in vitreoretinal surgery”, “Internal limiting membrane surgery”, “Macula oedema”, “Open globe injuries”, and “News in retinal pigment epithelium”. Further details: C Cantu, MA De Giovanni, or S Tedesco, Scientific Secretariat, Institute of Ophthalmology, University of Parma, Via Gramsci 14, 43100 Parma, Italy (tel: ++39 0521 259106; fax: ++39 0521 292358; email: nuzzi@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it).

DR-2000, International Forum on Diabetic Retinopathy
The International Forum on Diabetic Retinopathy will take place on 7–9 September 2000 at the Palazzo Reale, Naples, Italy. Further details: Francesco Bandello, Congress Secretariat, MGR Congressi, Via Servio Tullio, 4, 20123 Milano, Italy (tel: 39 02 430071; fax: 39 02 48008471; email: dr2000@mgr.it).

12th Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology
The 12th Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology (Official Congress for the Afro-Asian Council of Ophthalmology) will be held on 11–15 November 2000 in Guangzhou (Canton), China. The theme is “Advances of ophthalmology and the 21st century”. Further details: Professor Lezheng Wu, Zhongshan Eye Center, SUMS, New Building, Room 919, 54 Xianlie Nan Road, Guangzhou 510060, PR China (tel: +86-20-8760 2402; fax: +86-20-8777 3370; email: lwuicv@gzsums.edu.cn).