Surgically removed submacular nematode

EDITOR,—Intraocular filariasis is an uncommon disease in civilised countries. In only a few cases has the worm been surgically removed from the posterior portion of the eye and identified.1 In this report we describe a patient who had a filaria-like worm in an epimacular and/or submacular lesion, which was successively removed surgically.

CASE REPORT
A 38 year old woman complained of decreased visual acuity in her left eye of 5 days duration. Her medical history was unremarkable. The patient had two pet dogs, and she had not travelled to foreign countries in recent years. On examination, her corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in the right eye and 20/100 in the left. No inflammation was present in the anterior segment or vitreous cavity bilaterally. Ophthalmoscopic examination disclosed a preretinal haemorrhage along the superonasal branch of the central retinal vein (Fig 2). Fluorescein angiography showed numerous hyperfluorescent tracks without dye leakage. The patient’s blood test revealed a slightly elevated white blood cell count (10 200 x10³/ℓ; normal <9000) and elevated IgE in the serum (680 U/ml; normal <250).

On the following day, pars plana vitrectomy was performed and the worm was found partially migrated into the subretinal space of the macula. The worm was aspirated successfully through a 20 gauge silicone tipped needle and submitted for parasitological study; however, it was lost during transportation to a different laboratory. Parasitological study of the patient’s serum detected an antibody to *Dirofilaria*. Six months after surgery, the patient’s visual acuity was still 20/50. Ophthalmoscopically the hypopigmented tracks had faded, and mildly irregular pigment was observed at the deep retina in the macular lesion. Cone and rod electroretinograms to full field stimuli were normal bilaterally.

COMMENT
Our patient owned two dogs, and her ocular findings could be differentiated from toxocariasis, in which only larvae of *Toxocara canis* can infect humans. The length of the *Toxocara* larva is about 400 µm, and grows no longer. Although no direct microscopic evidence of *Dirofilaria* infection was obtained in our patient, a positive antibody to *Dirofilaria* in the serum indicated its infection. There have been many reports of intraocular filariasis; however, the filariae were removed and identified in only six of 56 cases reviewed by Beaver in 1974.

Various types of management for intraocular parasites have been reported. Direct photocoagulation to the worm body has been successively reported in cases with filaria-like worms3 and in one case with insect parasites.4 It has been suggested that photocoagulation denatures the parasite proteins and mitigates the immune reaction.4,5 If the parasite is located in the posterior pole of the retina, however, photocoagulation may cause permanent visual impairment, and surgical removal should be selected. Furthermore, photocoagulation would make parasitological identification impossible. Preretinal or subretinal parasites were retrieved successfully by pars plana vitrectomy in several reported cases.6

In the present case, the visual acuity was still 20/50 6 months postoperatively. The migrating worm may have caused considerable damage to macular function, therefore, we believe that intraocular parasites should be removed as soon as possible.

The authors are grateful to Dr Keizo Yamaguchi for parasitological examination and Mr Shingo Yamazaki for *hundus* photographs.


Acanthamoeba keratitis occurring with daily disposable contact lens wear

EDITOR,—Up to 92% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis occur in contact lens users of all types.1 Failure to disinfect soft contact lenses and the use of chlorine disinfection systems are major factors accounting for the increase in cases of acanthamoeba keratitis.2 It is thought that “daily disposable” contact lenses, which require no disinfection, will have a much lower risk for the development of all forms of infectious keratitis. We report a case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurring in a daily disposable contact lens wearer. We believe this is the first such reported case.

CASE REPORT
A healthy 21 year old woman, who had been wearing daily disposable contact lenses for 1 year, wore her lenses for 4 hours on 1 day and then stored the lenses in preserved saline solution overnight in a new contact lens case. She rewore the lenses for a further 3 hours the following day. She reports that this was the first time that she had done this. She then developed a painful left eye. This was initially treated as conjunctivitis by her general practitioner and local accident and emergency department. After 2 weeks her local eye unit suspected acanthamoeba keratitis and performed an epithelial scrape that “revealed amoeba species”. She was then referred to our unit for our opinion.

On examination her visual acuity was reduced to 6/18 in the left eye. There was conjunctival injection and a mild scleritis. The
cornea had diffuse punctate staining with linear epithelial and perineurial infiltrates (Figs 1 and 2). She had a mild anterior uveitis. Acanthamoeba was strongly suspected. Corneal epithelium was removed for microscopy, culture, and histology. Her contact lens case and solutions were also sent for culture. Acanthamoeba was cultured from both corneal epithelium and lens case, but not the lens solutions. She was treated with topical polyhexamethylene biguanide 0.02% (PHMB) and prednisolone 0.3 % as well as oral flurbiprofen (Froben, Knoll Ltd, Nottingham). Six weeks after diagnosis she was asymptomatic with a visual acuity of 6/9. The eye was quiet, though some corneal infiltrates remained.

COMMENT

Acanthamoeba are free living protozoa commonly found in soil and water, including bathroom tap water. Acanthamoeba keratitis is an uncommon but potentially devastating condition. The number of cases diagnosed in the United Kingdom has steadily risen over the past 20 years owing to increased awareness of the condition and the rise in contact lens wear. Radford et al found that daily wear disposable contact lenses were associated with greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba keratitis compared with other lens types and wear systems. Multivariable analysis showed that this was largely attributable to a lack of disinfection, the use of non-sterile saline, and the use of chlorine based disinfection rather than alternative chemical systems. It was concluded that 80% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis could be prevented by the adequate use of an effective disinfection system. It was felt that the “no care” philosophy of daily wear disposable lenses had become “no care” in practice. Daily disposable contact lenses, in which the lens is discarded after 1 day's wear only, were introduced in 1995. When used properly and discarded after a single day's wear, they do not carry the risks of inadequate lens disinfection, contaminated lens solutions, and storage cases. A case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurring in an extended wear disposable lens wearer has been reported, illustrating that even without the risks of inadequate lens disinfection and contaminated lens cases the infection can occur. However, it is known that contact lens wear increases the susceptibility to keratitis independent of factors relating to disinfection and clearing.

Our case of acanthamoeba keratitis in a daily disposable lens wearer illustrates that misuse occurs and when it does so inadequate disinfection is almost inevitable leading to greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba infection. Misuse, as in this case, may often be related to inadequate lens disinfection and contaminated lens cases. We would recommend greater education of daily disposable lens wearers on the importance of strict adherence to wearing their lenses for 1 day only and of the risks of misuse of their lenses.

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Clinical course of acute zonal occult outer retinopathy in visual field and multifocal electroretinogram

EDITOR,—Patients with acute zonal occult outer retinopathy (AZOOR) may present with a normal fundus examination and almost normal visual acuity (VA).

An infectious aetiology could be the cause of the disease. We therefore examined a series of patients with AZOOR.

CASE REPORT

A healthy 60 year old woman presented to our outpatient clinic complaining of acute onset of visual disturbance in her left eye. Her corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in her right eye, and 20/100 in her left. The pupils were equal and reactive normally. Slit lamp and fundus examination, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging scan, and general examination were normal. HVF 30-2 demonstrated blind spot enlargement breaking out to the inferotemporal periphery in the left eye (Fig 1, top). Full field ERG showed grossly reduced A and B waves in the left eye. The FA showed slight leakage from peripapillary capillaries. Indocyanine green (ICG) angiography showed slight hypofluorescence of the macular area at a late phase.

Analysis of the mean deviation in HVF over the clinical course corresponded with the visual acuity (Fig 1, bottom). In addition, m-ERG (Veris III, Tomey, Nagoya, Japan) was analysed during the clinical course. In this examination, the fundus was divided into four foci and the sum of amplitudes in each group was measured (Fig 2, top). In the left eye, the sum of amplitudes was altered individually but all of them were affected during the clinical course. Only in the inferotemporal area did it correspond with HVF. The values in the right eye were about 5000 µV in each focus. This is almost the same as normal volunteers in our clinic (data not shown).

COMMENT

AZOOR may be precipitated by various retinal disorders and is characterised by rapid visual field loss which cannot be explained by the ophthalmoscopic changes resulting from the initiating disease. The ERG is abnormal, indicating that the field loss is due to retinal dysfunction. The cause of the acute damage to sharply defined zones of the retinal receptor cells in the absence of visible fundus changes in patients with AZOOR is unknown. In some previous reports, an apparent response to corticosteroid therapy suggested that an inflammatory and perhaps an immune reaction may play a part in the disease; however, there is no specific evidence for an immune abnormality. An infectious aetiology could also be the cause of AZOOR.

Figure 1 (Top) Ratio images of Humphrey 30-2 visual fields in the left eye. (Bottom) The relation between clinical course and mean deviation (MD) of Humphrey 30-2 visual field and visual acuity in the left eye. Asterisks indicate the day on which multifocal ERG was analysed. The roman numerals correspond with raw images in the upper part of the figure.
The findings of AZOOR that we observed in our patient suggest that the retinal recovery assessed by m-ERG was different for the lesion (main focus was related to the inferotemporal retina) and was delayed compared with visual acuity and HVF. Perhaps this delayed retinal recovery reflects a subtle microcirculatory disturbance that can not be clearly detected by FA or ICG. Slight leakage in FA and slight hypofluorescence on the late phase in ICG would suggest such a microcirculatory disorder.

When better understanding of the aetiology and pathophysiology of AZOOR is available, the clinical response to appropriate therapy may perhaps best be followed by m-ERG.

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Hypotonic maculopathy following pneumatic retinopexy: a UBM study

EDITOR,—Pneumatic retinopexy is a promising surgical alternative in selected cases of retinal detachment.

We report a rare complication, to our knowledge the first ever reported, of this procedure—namely, hypotonic maculopathy, caused by a wound dehiscence on a patient who had previously undergone a standard extracapsular extraction with posterior chamber implant. Ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM) proved to be a valuable adjunct in both the diagnosis and management of this complicated case.

CASE REPORT

A 63 year old white man, complaining of a shadow in his right visual field, was referred to our department in April 1997 for further management. Occular history was notable for bilateral extracapsular cataract extraction with posterior chamber lens implantation (PC/ IOL) right eye in January 1997 and left eye in June 1996. Visual acuities were 20/25 in both eyes. IOPs were within normal limits. Anterior segment examination was unremarkable with well positioned IOLs. Fundal examination of his right eye revealed a superotemporal macula on rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, produced by a single horseshoe retinal break around 10 o'clock. After the risks and benefits of pneumatic retinopexy were explained to the patient he chose to have the procedure.

Cryopexy was applied to the tear and after an anterior chamber paracentesis was performed 0.7 ml of 100% SF6 gas was injected. Two weeks postoperatively, the pressure normalised (IOP 12 mm Hg), maculopathy was reversed, and visual acuity improved to 20/50.

Hypotonic maculopathy is an unusual and, to our knowledge, the first reported complication of this kind after pneumatic retinopexy. We hypothesise that the original cataract wound did not heal properly and the additional cryoprobe manipulation caused the leak.

Between October 1997 and November 1997 he was presented to our unit on three occasions complaining of further deterioration of vision to 20/200, IOPs between 3–5 mm Hg, and a full blown hypotonic maculopathy. After 3 months of hypertension of "unknown origin", a diagnosis was made by a glaucoma specialist using indentation gonioscopy revealing a dehiscence of the cataract wound. A preoperative UBM study confirmed the presence of an internal wound gap, behind the limbus, superotemporally, 3.5 mm in circumference. Ultrasonically the wound dehiscence was depicted as a narrow slit (Fig 1) with a flat inadvertent bleb above which was not apparent clinically. A surgical repair of the wound was decided upon. Intraoperatively no definite dehiscence could be clinically identified. Balanced salt solution through a 30 gauge needle was repeatedly injected under pressure to the anterior chamber but this failed to localise any suspicious area. At this point, based on the ultrasonic study, two 10-0 nylon interrupted sutures were placed through the sclera parallel to the limbus in the suspicious area. These bites were moderately deep in an attempt to engage the internal flap of the cataract wound.

Two weeks postoperatively, the pressure normalised (IOP 12 mm Hg), maculopathy was reversed, and visual acuity improved to 20/50.
wound to leak. The UBM study provided us with an interesting insight into how the scleral suture repair may have worked to correct the wound leak as shown in Figure 2. The fact that hypotony resolved after suturing the wound, indicated that the external part of the wound was secure (no slit is apparent) despite the fact that the internal part of the wound was gaping even more postoperatively. This finding implies, therefore, that only minimal overall alteration of the wound architecture postoperatively, sufficient to rectify the leak.

We believe that UBM is a valuable adjunct in the management of similar cases by clearly identifying both the presence and exact location of leak. Finally, pneumatic retinopexy should be performed with caution, especially in cases of previously operated eyes with large incision wounds.

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Bilateral electrical cataract

Editor,—Electric trauma is not uncommon in India where majority of the population lives in the rural setting. Few cases of electric cataract have been reported in literature probably because few patients survive the high voltage of current that induces cataract formation. Most patients with electric cataract have no subjective complaints early on but become aware of the reducing visual function several months later.1

CASE REPORT

A 26 year old man complained of gradual and painless diminution of vision in both eyes, right more than left, for the past 2–3 years. There was a history of an overhead high tension electric transmission cable accidentally falling on the patient’s head 4–5 years earlier. This had resulted in immediate burn to the scalp. The patient was visually asymptomatic till about 1 year after the mishap, when he began to notice the gradual fall in vision that had progressed to its present state.

Corrected visual acuity was 20/200 right eye and 20/60 left eye. A 15 × 2.5 cm linear, sagittal scar extending from the frontal to the occipital region of the head was noticed. The lids, conjunctiva, cornea, and pupils showed no abnormality in either eye. Fundus examination was unremarkable. Slit lamp examination revealed multiple, mid-peripheral snowflake-like anterior subcapsular lens opacities in both eyes, right greater than left. In the right eye some of these opacities were seen encroaching into the visual axis and additionally a few posterior subcapsular opacities were noticed (Fig 1).

In view of the history of electrical injury and classic location and typical appearance of the lens opacities, a diagnosis of bilateral electric cataract was made. Extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) with posterior chamber intraocular lens implantation was undertaken in both eyes, right eye first followed 3 months later in left eye. The intraoperative and postoperative course were uneventful and the patient has achieved corrected visual acuity of 20/20 in both eyes.

COMMENT

Involvement of the lens exclusively, sparing other ocular structures is rare. This case documents such a possibility and also highlights the salient features involving electric trauma to the lens. The scalpel burn in this case represents the entrance wound for the electrical energy but the lack of an exit wound makes this case particularly peculiar. Both entry and exit sites for the electric current have been reported by all previous authors.

The excellent surgical results noted in both eyes of this patient are in keeping with the similar result reported by Portello et al. This observation should encourage the ophthalmologist to undertake surgery for electric cataract, where necessary, without any undue concern.

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Monckeberg’s sclerosis in temporal artery biopsy specimens

Editor,—Temporal artery biopsies are performed routinely on patients suspected of having giant cell arteritis. Of 131 pathology specimens examined at University of Illinois at Chicago Eye Center from 1975 to 1998, the most common diagnosis was atherosclerosis with myointimal fibrosis (63%) followed by giant cell arteritis (13%). In about 6% of cases we encountered calcific sclerosis confined to the tunica media which was associated with mild tissue disorganisation surrounding the calcific plaque and disruption of the internal elastic lamina (Fig 1).

Monckeberg’s sclerosis as seen in these specimens was first described by Monckeberg in 1903. It commonly affects medium size muscular arteries and is described in femoral, tibial, radial, coronary, cerebral, and visceral arteries. However, its association with the temporal artery is uncommon. The infrequent occurrence of this condition in the temporal artery and the presence of a fragmented inter-
nal elastic lamina should not be erroneously interpreted as sequelae of previous arterial inflammation. The pathophysiology of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is still unclear, but it can be induced in animal models by injecting adrenalin, nicotine, parathyroid hormone, and vitamin D. In addition, lumbar sympathectomy has been shown to promote occurrence of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the lower extremities in humans. Automatic dysfunction from diabetic neuropathy is thought to be responsible for the occurrence of Monckeberg's in diabetic patients. Unlike atherosclerosis, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is a benign condition and does not cause vascular thrombosis. In conclusion, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the temporal artery may be seen occasionally in the temporal area. It is an interesting histological diagnosis that has little clinical significance but should be recognised in temporal biopsy material.

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Retinal vascular abnormality in Poland's syndrome

EDITOR—Poland's syndrome is a congenital anomaly first described in 1841 consisting of unilateral hypoplasia or aplasia of the pectoralis major muscle and ipsilateral upper extremity abnormalities which often include ipsilateral syndactyly. Since then a number of associated anomalies have been reported. These include absence of the pectoralis minor muscle, absence or atrophy of ipsilateral ribs two to five, aplasia of the ipsilateral breast or nipple, and simian crease of the palm. Unlike atherosclerosis, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is a benign condition and does not cause vascular thrombosis. In conclusion, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the temporal artery may be seen occasionally in the temporal area. It is an interesting histological diagnosis that has little clinical significance but should be recognised in temporal biopsy material.

both optic nerves looked normal. Visual acuities were still 6/5 in both eyes and there was no loss of colour vision or visual field. The intraocular pressures had increased to 22 mm Hg in both eyes.

COMMENT
Latanoprost is a prostaglandin F₂α analogue which acts by increasing uveoscleral outflow. Side effects include increased iris pigmentation, hypertrichosis and increased eyelash pigmentation, anterior uveitis in patients with complicated glaucoma or in those having had previous incisional surgery, and cystoid macular oedema occurring soon after beginning latanoprost in pseudophakic or aphakic eyes. Ocular hypotony with choroidal effusions and facial rash have also been attributed to latanoprost. To the best of our knowledge, optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost has not previously been described. The mechanism behind this association is unclear. One may not be surprised to see optic nerve swelling in association with signs of posterior uveitis or hypotony but in this case it occurred without any sign of ocular inflammation and the lowest recorded intraocular pressure was 15 mm Hg. It may be feasible that the perfusion to the optic nerve heads via the short posterior ciliary arteries was compromised by a prostaglandin-like action manifesting as disc oedema and that latanoprost acid and prostaglandin F₂α at high concentrations could cause vasconstriction of bovine ciliary arteries and a similar action cannot be discounted in this case. The rapid resolution of the swelling with seemingly no long term sequelae once latanoprost was stopped would perhaps support this hypothesis.

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Somatostatin scan positive gastrinoma ocular metastasis

Editor,—Symptomatic ocular metastases are uncommon despite the 4% prevalence in patients dying of all types of malignancy in postmortem series.1 We report a case of ocular metastasis from a gastrinoma, which was part of the Wermer’s syndrome (multiple endocrine neoplasia [MEN] type 1), diagnosed by indium labelled octreotide scanning.

CASE REPORT
A 57 year old man presented with a 1 week history of blurring in his peripheral vision in his right eye and severe loss of visual acuity, worse early morning. He had been diagnosed with MEN type 1, 8 years previously after two perforated jejunal ulcers (1978, 1990) led to a diagnosis of Zollinger–Ellison syndrome, and a hyperplastic parathyroid gland had been removed for hypercalcaemia (1990). His mother had MEN type 1.

Ophthalmic examination revealed 6/12 acuity in the right eye and 6/5 in the left. His anterior segments were unremarkable. His right fundus showed a solid amelanotic lesion about one disc diameter above the right disc. Ultrasonography demonstrated a base of 13 mm and a height of 8 mm. He also had bilateral inferior retinoschisis. One month later the tumour base measured 14.5 mm and the thickness measured 7.9 mm. The posterior edge now practically abutted the optic disc (Fig 1). There was subretinal fluid accumulation.

A liver ultrasound scan showed multiple lesions and a tumour biopsy was composed of small solid islands of polygonal cells with granular cytoplasm, diagnostic of metastatic neuroendocrine carcinoma (immunostaining positive for chromogranin, neuron specific enolase, and NCAM, negative for S-100 and HMB45 (melanoma markers)). His urinary 5HIAA was marginally raised at 133 µmol/24 hours (normal up to 75), and a fasting intestinal peptide screen, showed a highly elevated gastrin level (on omeprazole 40 mg per day) of 343 pmol/l (normal range 0–40 pmol/l) but normal levels of other polypeptides.

No primary tumour or further metastases were seen using body computed tomograph and magnetic resonance imaging scans and the I-123 MIBG scan (meta-iodobenzyl guanidine) was also negative. An indium (In-111) labelled octreotide scan at 1 and 4 hours ++SPET showed focal areas of increased uptake in the right orbit (Fig 2), the nasal region, mediastinum, multiple sites in the liver, and possibly other abdomen sites. However, a positive octreotide scan is not exclusively seen with neuroendocrine tumours, since other tissues have somatostatin receptors. These include high grade lymphoma, some small cell lung cancers, occasional tumours of the breast, and in chronic inflammatory conditions where there is T cell activation including endocrine ophthalmopathy with orbital involvement. Thus, although an absolute positive diagnosis of metastatic gastrinoma cannot be made definitively in the absence of histology, in the context of this clinical case it is highly probable that the choroidal tumour is due to ocular metastasis from gastrinoma.

COMMENT
Gastrinoma may occur sporadically or as part of multiple endocrine neoplasia. MEN type 1 is a rare disorder, usually inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion with high penetrance which affects multiple endocrine glands (hyperparathyroid hyperplasia in 80–90%, pancreatic islet tumours in 50%, and pituitary adenomas in 40–50%).

Ocular metastasis from gastrinoma has not previously been reported, although it has been reported in other neuroendocrine tumours—for example, carcinoid. Multiple or metastatic gastrinomas (especially if actively secreting) are best localised by a new radioisotope scan using radioactively labelled somatostatin analogues. Somatostatin is a peptide elaborated by the delta cells of the islets of Langerhans and the hypothalamus. It inhibits the secretion of gastrin by gastric mucosa and many other hormones such as insulin, thyrotropin, and corticotropic. Somatostatin receptors are found on neuroendocrine tumours (80% of gastrinomas) and indium labelled octreotide visualises all somatostatin receptor positive gastrinomas. Our scans revealed somatostatin avid liver metastases. Interestingly, the scan also very clearly confirmed the ocular/orbital disease. Orbital radiotherapy and chemotherapy were recommended.

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1. Rowe JA, Hattenhauer MG, Herman DC. Hypertrichosis and increased side effects of prostaglandin E₂, F₂α, and cystoid macular oedema occurring soon after beginning latanoprost in pseudophakic or aphakic eyes. Ocular hypotony with choroidal effusions and facial rash have also been attributed to latanoprost. To the best of our knowledge, optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost has not previously been described. The mechanism behind this association is unclear. One may not be surprised to see optic nerve swelling in association with signs of posterior uveitis or hypotony but in this case it occurred without any sign of ocular inflammation and the lowest recorded intraocular pressure was 15 mm Hg. It may be feasible that the perfusion to the optic nerve heads via the short posterior ciliary arteries was compromised by a prostaglandin-like action manifesting as disc oedema and that latanoprost acid and prostaglandin F₂α at high concentrations could cause vasconstriction of bovine ciliary arteries and a similar action cannot be discounted in this case. The rapid resolution of the swelling with seemingly no long term sequelae once latanoprost was stopped would perhaps support this hypothesis.
In the eye this represents solely a mesodermal retinal non-perfusion with subsequent retinal Goltz syndrome with documented peripheral anomalies. Examination revealed a right vitreous haemorrhage, episode of photopsia and floaters in the right eye. Age 7 years, she complained of a brief retrorenal rupture resulting in haemorrhage but with no bony involvement and vitreous subluxation. There was no angle recession and the intraocular pressures were normal till the transitional zone. The differential diagnosis of retinal vascular anomalies includes incontinencia pigmenti (IP) and Cockayne’s syndrome. Although focal skin atrophy may occur in IP, the initial skin lesions are vesicles and bullae which may later become pigmented macules. The skin lesions in Cockayne’s syndrome are pigmented scars due to light sensitivity and trauma. Neither syndrome is associated with digital anomalies.

The genetic anomaly in Goltz syndrome remains to be determined. Most cases are sporadic. It is generally thought to be X-linked dominant with lethality in males, like IP; however, 9% of cases are male. These are due to light sensitivity and trauma. Neither syndrome is associated with digital anomalies.

The genetic anomaly in Goltz syndrome is associated with digital anomalies. The differential diagnosis of retinal vascular anomalies includes incontinencia pigmenti (IP) and Cockayne’s syndrome. Although focal skin atrophy may occur in IP, the initial skin lesions are vesicles and bullae which may later become pigmented macules. The skin lesions in Cockayne’s syndrome are pigmented scars due to light sensitivity and trauma. Neither syndrome is associated with digital anomalies.
pressure was recorded at less than 4 mm Hg. Fundal examination revealed evidence of a retinal tear although details were obscured by a diffuse vitreous haemorrhage. An ultrasound examination showed a vitreous haemorrhage and large retinal tear but no evidence of a scleral perforation.

An examination under anaesthesia performed the following day confirmed that there was no scleral rupture and indirect ophthalmoscopy confirmed the findings of diffuse vitreous haemorrhage and a retinal tear.

At the 2 week postoperative clinic visit, visual acuity had improved to 6/18. There was 2+ cells in the anterior chamber and the intraocular pressure was 24 mm Hg. Posterior segment findings were an intragel haemorrhage, and retinitis sclopeteria with no evidence of retinal detachment.

Four months later, the best corrected visual acuity was 6/36. The anterior chamber activity had settled; the intraocular pressure was 10 mm Hg, and fundal examination was unchanged. In view of the persistent vitreous haemorrhage the patient was listed for routine pars plana vitrectomy in the postpartum period.

COMMENT

Airbags are designed to protect the driver from direct impact from the steering wheel, dashboard, and windscreen. They are designed to inflate in 10 ms in response to sudden deceleration and during deployment, the airbag is propelled out of its storage compartment at speeds of more than 100 mph. Following inflation the airbag deflates slowly within seconds.

Facial and ocular injuries associated with airbags have been reported in the literature. Skin abrasions, burns, and eyelid ecchymoses are the most common facial injuries. Reported ocular injuries include orbital fractures, kera
titis, corneal abrasions, hyphaemmas, angle recession, and lens subluxation. In the posterior segment, vitreous and retinal haemorrhages, commotio retinae, retinal tears and dialyses, and choroidal ruptures have been reported. To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of retinitis sclopeteria secondary to airbag inflation.

Although airbags have clearly been shown to reduce serious morbidity and mortality associated with road traffic accidents, they are associated with a number of injuries directly attributable to their inflation. Some of these are serious ocular injuries and it is important for ophthalmologists and others involved with trauma cases to be aware of these complications. A full ophthalmic assessment is mandatory in all cases and this should include inden
tation ophthalmoscopy. A variety of posterior segment injuries have been reported in the liter
erature but this is the first report of retinitis sclopeteria resulting from airbag deployment.

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Specular microscopic findings of corneal deposits in patients with Bietti's crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy

EDITOR,—In 1937, Bietti first described three cases of tapetoretinal degeneration characterised by yellowish glistening retinal crystals, tapetoretinal degeneration with choroidal sclerosis, and marginal crystalline deposits of the cornea. Although more than 100 cases of crystalline retinopathy have been reported, crystalline deposits of the corneal limbus have been examined after 1 year. The change of the locations and forms of crystalline deposits from the same vessels can be seen.

Figure 1. Specular microscopic findings. (A) Many crystalline deposits are observed at the limbus. (B) Specular microscopic findings re-examined after 1 year. The change of the locations and forms of crystalline deposits from the same vessels can be seen.

Figure 1. Airbag injury with retinitis sclopeteria, an intragel haemorrhage, and attached retina.

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