Numerous subretinal hypopigmented tracks with small haemorrhages were noted in the superior retina, and perivascular haemorrhages were observed around the inferior 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 \((10 \, \times \times 10^3/\mu l)\) 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 20/50 and the 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 1989. Direct parasitological microscopic examination is necessary for accurate diagnosis, but serological study can be helpful, as shown in the present case. Various types of management for intraocular parasites have been reported. Direct photocoagulation of the worm body has been successfully reported in cases with filaria-like worms and in one case with insect parasites. It has been suggested that photocoagulation denatures the parasite proteins and mitigates the immune reaction. 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. Periretinal or subretinal parasites were retrieved successfully by pars plana vitrectomy in several reported cases.

In the present case, the visual acuity was still 20/50 after 6 months postoperatively. The migrating worm may have caused considerable damage to the 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 Yama-zaki for fundus photographs.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**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. In this report we describe a patient who had a filaria-like worm in an epiretinal and/or submacular lesion, which was successfully 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 white worm, approximately 3 disc diameters in length, equivalent to about 4.5 mm, moving slowly in the macula at the epi-retina. Epiretinal and preretinal haemorrhages were observed in and around the macular region. The body of the worm was tapered at one end and slightly rounded at the other (Fig 1). A round, preretinal haemorrhage was observed on a branch of the superonasal retinal artery, which could have been the route of entry into the eye.

**COMMENT**

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. 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. 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

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**References**

cornea had diffuse punctate staining with linear epithelial and perineural 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

Acanthamoebae are free living protozoa commonly found in soil and water, including Acanthamoeba keratitis occurring with disposable contact lens wear. A case control study. A case control study. However, 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.

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 fluorescein angiography (FA), despite severe loss of visual field and electroretinogram (ERG) abnormalities. The lesion defined zones of the retinal receptor cells; however, the cause of the disease remain unclear. There is also no established conclusion about progression of visual field loss. With a multifocal ERG (m-ERG), a large number of retinal locations can be stimulated simultaneously and local responses can be extracted independently in a single recording session. High resolution topographic mapping of retinal function also is possible. A previous report indicates its efficiency in the diagnosis of AZOOR. There are no reports about the clinical course. Thus, using m-ERG and static perimetry (Humphrey 30-2), the alteration of retinal function in a clinical course of a patient with AZOOR was investigated.

CASE REPORT

A healthy 26 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 ophtalmoscopic 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 inferior temporal retina and was delayed compared with visual acuity and HVF. Perhaps this delayed retinal recovery reflects a subtle microcirculatory disturbance that cannot 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 disturbance.

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.

KANAKO YASUDA
MASAHIKO SHIMURA
MITSURO NAKAZAWA
MAKOTO TAMAI
Correspondence to: Masaiko Shimura, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Tohoku University, Sendai 980–8574, Japan
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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 kind after pneumatic retinopexy. We hypothesise that the original cataract wound did not heal properly and the additional cryoprobe manipulation caused the dehiscence to widen.

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. Ocular history was notable for a right pars plana vitrectomy in 1996. Visual acuity (VA) was 20/200. Pneumatic retinopexy was performed in January 1997 in his left eye which was totally attached. The patient maintained a 20/30 VA in the right eye. Several weeks after surgery, VA deteriorated to 20/50 secondary to a hypotonic maculopathy.

Figure 1 UBM picture of right eye showing the external part of the dehiscent cataract wound, as a narrow slit, before repair (area between arrows). There is a full blown hypotonous maculopathy in this eye, with VA 20/200.

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 hypotonous maculopathy. After 3 months of hypotony 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 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.

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 dehiscence to widen. The dehiscence was depicted as a narrow slit (Fig 1) with an 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.

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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.

IOANNIS M ASLANIDES
Department of Ophthalmology, Vitreo-retinal Unit, St Michael’s Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada and VEIC (Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete), Greece

CHARLES J PAVLIN
Department of Ophthalmology, Ocular Oncology Clinic, Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada

LOUIS R GIAVEDONI
Department of Ophthalmology, Vitreo-retinal Unit, St Michael’s Hospital, University of Toronto, Canada

Correspondence to: Dr Ioannis M Aslanides, Vardinoynnion Eye Institute of Crete. University of Crete Medical School, Voutes PO Box 1352, Iraklion 71110, Greece

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COMMENT
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.

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 arcact 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).

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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.¹ 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-
Perimacular capillary telangiectasis, retinal relative scotoma. The right eye fundus showed visual acuity of 20/50 and a paracentral cal examination of the right eye revealed a diabetes or hypertension. The ophthalmological examination causes retinal swelling.

The aetiology of juxtafoveal telangiectasis is unknown. The patient we examined had retinal vascular malformations that may have originated in the early stages of life. Indeed, the deformed capillaries may function for a long time to come.

The exact cause of bilateral juxtafoveal telangiectasis is unknown. The patient we examined had retinal vascular malformations that may have originated in the early stages of life. Indeed, the deformed capillaries may function for a long time to come.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of coexistent juxtafoveal telangiectasia, renal agenesis, and Poland’s syndrome. Although we are not aware of direct evidence reported in the literature indicating any retinal involvement linked to this syndrome, it is possible that the three abnormalities found in this patient may have had common origin.

We recommend a careful eye fundus examination of patients presenting with this syndrome.

Bilateral optic disc oedema associated with latentropost

Editor.—Latanoprost is a recent addition to the medical management of raised intraocular pressure in chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. It is a potent ocular hypotensive agent with few ocular or systemic side effects.

We report a case of bilateral optic disc oedema developing soon after commencing treatment with latentropost which resolved once therapy was stopped.

CASE REPORT

An asymptomatic 64 year old woman presented with raised intraocular pressure. She maintained good general health, had no significant past medical or family history, and was not on any medication. Snellen visual acuities were 6/5 both eyes. The intraocular pressures were 28 mm Hg right eye and 26 mm Hg left eye. Ocular examination was otherwise unremarkable with open angles, normal optic nerves, and full Humphrey 24-2 visual fields. She was thus diagnosed as having ocular hypertension and consented to enter a prospective double masked trial comparing some of the intraocular pressure lowering drops. Therapy was commenced with one of the drugs involved in the study and at a 1 month review she reported no problems with the drops. The intraocular pressures had lowered to 16 mm Hg in both eyes and the examination was otherwise unchanged. At her third visit 2 months later, she was again asymptomatic with visual acuities of 6/5 in both eyes and intraocular pressures of 15 mm Hg. However, examination of the optic nerves revealed bilateral oedema which was more prominent in the left eye. There were no signs of uveitis in either eye, pupillary reactions were normal, colour vision and Amsler testing were normal, and the visual fields were full. At this point the code for the trial drug was broken and it was seen that she had been using latentropost 0.005% eye drops at night to both eyes over the 3 month period. A neurological consultation failed to find any neurological abnormality and all haematological and biochemical analyses were normal. A computed tomography scan was normal, apart from a minor occipital subdural haematoma which was not suspected to be related to the oedema.

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Francisco Gomez-Ulla
Servicio de Oftalmologia, Complexo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago, E-15705 Santiago de Compostela, Spain

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Figure 1 Early venous phase fluorescein angiogram of the right eye, macular area. Note the easily visible telangiectatic retinal capillaries (arrows). These abnormal vessels showed significant leakage of fluorescein in the late phase of the angiogram.
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 Fα 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 uveal 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 prostataglandin-like action manifesting as disc oedema and that latanoprost acid and prostaglandin Fα, at high concentrations could cause vasoconstriction 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.

OWN STEWART
LOUISE WALSH
MILIND PANDE
Department of Ophthalmology, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull

Correspondence to: Mr Owen Stewart, Department of Ophthalmology, St James’s University Hospital, Leeds LS9 7TF.
Accepted for publication 12 April 1999

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 pmol/24 hours (normal range up to 75), and a fasting intestinal peptide screen, showed a highly elevated level of gastrin by computing tomographic 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, 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 corticotropin. 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.

KEIR E LEWIS
PAUL B ROGERS
Department of Clinical Oncology

JOHN HUNGERFORD
Department of Ocular Oncology

KEITH E BRITTON
Department of Nuclear Medicine

P NICHOLAS PLOWMAN
Department of Clinical Oncology, St Bartholomew’s Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

Correspondence to: Dr Plowman. Accepted for publication 12 April 1999
Retinal neovascularisation in Goltz syndrome (focal dermal hypoplasia)

EDITOR.—This is the first reported case of Goltz syndrome with documented peripheral retinal non-perfusion with subsequent retinal neovascularisation and vitreous haemorrhage. In the eye this represents solely a mesodermal anomaly. When she was aged 5 years, screening of the parents, brother, and sister revealed a right vitreous haemorrhage, telangiectatic vessels temporal to the edge of the macula and temporal retinal non-perfusion and temporal retinal neovascularisation. The diastereoscopic fundus photograph (Figure 1) shows peripheral non-perfusion and haemorrhage arising from the neovascular complex. The arterialisation of the retinal vessels appears normal till the transitional zone.

COMMENT

Focal dermal hypoplasia is a rare disorder of ectodermal and mesodermal dysplasia originally described by Goltz et al. It is characterised by congenital atrophic skin changes often associated with herniation of the subcutaneous fat; skeletal anomalies, in particular syndactyly; polycystic kidneys; and ocular anomalies. The patient was not wearing spectacles and had bilateral symmetrical syndactyly of the third to fourth fingers and second to third toes. Initial opthalmologic screening revealed no ocular anomalies. Dental screening revealed the congenital absence of one deciduous incisor. Screening of the parents, brother, and sister was negative for skin, skeletal, and ocular anomalies. When she was aged 5 years, routine ophthalmologic review showed a vision of 6/9 in the right eye and 6/5 in the left eye, with a minor myopic astigmatism.

Age 7 years, she complained of a brief episode of photopsia and floaters in the right eye. Vision was 6/6/9 and left eye 6/6. Examination revealed a right vitreous haemorrhage, telangiectatic vessels temporal to the macula, and temporal equatorial fibrotic vessels and haemorrhage. Fluorescein angiography showed bilateral peripheral retinal non-perfusion and right temporal neovascularisation (see Figures 1 and 2). This was treated conservatively for 2 years; however, after six bleeds within 3 months indirect retinal photocoagulation to the areas of non-perfusion was performed with subsequent new vessel regression within weeks.

Retinitis sclerotica associated with airbag inflation

EDITOR.—Chorioretinitis sclerectasia is a severe form of blunt trauma, caused by a high velocity object grazing the globe but not penetrating it. It is a concussion injury, which usually manifests as severe choroidal and retinal rupture associated with haemorrhage but an intact sclera. We report a case of chorioretinitis sclerectasia resulting from deployment of an airbag in a stationary motor vehicle.

CASE REPORT

A 32 year old pregnant woman was the driver in a car accident in which the airbag failed to deploy at the time of impact but inflated when she returned to sit in the driver's seat approximately 5 minutes after the accident occurred. The patient was not wearing spectacles and there was no evidence of injury from other sources.

At presentation the visual acuity was hand movements in the left eye and 6/6 in the right eye. Examination revealed evidence of swollen eyelids and marked chemosis and subconjunctival haemorrhages on the left, with no bony injury and a full range of eye movements. Anterior segment examination revealed a clear left cornea and a quiet anterior chamber with a microhyphaema. The lens was clear and there was no evidence of cataract. There was no angle recession and the intraocular pressure was normal.
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 a retinal tear.

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, keratitis, 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 sclopetaria 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 indentation ophthalmoscopy. A variety of posterior segment injuries have been reported in the literature but this is the first report of retinitis sclopetaria resulting from airbag deployment.

R H Y ASARIA
A ZAMAN
P M SULLIVAN
Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Correspondence to: Mr Asaria
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Specular microscopic findings of corneal deposits in patients with Bietti's crystalline corneal 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 observed in only four out of 52 Japanese patients with crystalline retinopathy. Recently, observation using specular microscopy has been reported to be useful in detecting crystalline deposits at the limbus of patients with crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy. Therefore, in this study, we examined four patients with crystalline retinopathy using specular microscopy under a “con-surface” mode, which is used for the observation of the corneal surface, and we detected the deposits at the limbus.

Twelve months after the initial specular microscopic examination, we reinspected the crystalline deposits of two cases. Interestingly, the changes in the locations and forms of the crystalline deposits in the corneal limbus were exposed over time (Fig 1). More crystalline deposits were found in the patients with more advanced retinopathy. It is supposed that corneal deposits and fundus deposits are essentially the same and it is suggested that crystalline retinopathy is caused by systemic abnormality. Although the exact pathogenesis of crystalline deposits is still uncertain, it is possible that destroyed fibroblasts appear to glitter or fibroblasts with crystalline-like deposits look glittering during breakdown. Further biochemical or cellular biological studies are needed to clarify these possibilities.

YUKO WADA
Department of Ophthalmology, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Sendai Japan

MITSURU NAKAZAWA
Department of Ophthalmology, Hirosaki University School of Medicine, Hirosaki, Aomori, Japan

TOSHIKI ABE
TAKASHI SHIONO
Makoto Tama
Department of Ophthalmology, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Sendai, Japan

Correspondence to: Yuko Wada, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, Tohoku University School of Medicine, 1-1 Seiryo-machi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8775, Japan
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