Correspondence to: Dr Kuhn

No case of retinal detachment.

Postoperative peripheral visual fields compared with those of the fellow eye have equator, sparing the horizontal meridians.

Following fluid-air exchange, we perform vitrectomy for macular hole surgeries using a diode laser.
very similar stage before treatment. The clinical efficacy of both types of trabecu-plotomy was similar. The most important difference found in the eyes requiring trabeculectomy was the presence of a membrane over the trabecular meshwork after ALT and the absence of this membrane after Nd:YAG laser trabeculectomy in the same patients. These findings suggest that the type of laser or its thermal effect are also important factors when the causes of late failure are discussed.

In contrast with the authors' opinion I do not think that immediate IOP spikes 1 or 2 hours after ALT are caused by prostaglandins of the E (PG) type. In clinical studies it was clearly shown that either topical corticosteroid or non-steroid pretreatments failed to reduce the early IOP spike though both types of treat-ments did reduce the inflammation after ALT. This clearly shows that late and early IOP elevations are caused by different mecha-nisms. Recently it was shown that the trabecular meshwork contains contractile ele-ments which are contracted by endothelin-1 (ET-1). The contraction causes a decrease of the outflow and a resulting IOP elevation. Lower ET-1 concentration, however, may induce relaxation via endothelin B receptors. In experimental studies' exogenous ET-1 injected into the anterior chamber caused the typical biphasic IOP alterations we experience after ALT in clinical praxis: an immediate spike is followed by a prolonged (10–15 days) pressure decrease. Long term IOP decrease after ALT is caused by the biochemical altera-tions of the trabecular meshwork, and appear only after some weeks following the laser treatment. To investigate the potential role of ET-1 we tested the effect of IOP spikes after ALT we performed ALT in rabbits. Very high ET-1 concentrations were found in the aqueous humour already 30 minutes after treatment, which persisted for 4 hours, but disappeared within 24 hours, and was not found in the sham treated contralateral eyes. This ET-1 release from the uveal tissue (which is known to be rich of endothelins) was associ-ated with a decrease of IOP spike and later decrease on the treated but not on the sham treated eyes of the same animals. These findings suggest that the acute pressure spike after ALT is caused by a mechanism different from that of the long term pressure elevation: the latter is promoted by inflammation while the former maybe caused by acute endothelin release from the damaged uveal tissue.


NOTICES

Community participation in eye health and trachoma and the SAFE strategy

The latest issues of Community Eye Health (nos 31 and 32) discuss community participa-tion in eye health (issue 31) and trachoma and the SAFE strategy (issue 32). 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) Annual subscription £25. Free to workers in develop-ing countries.

Residents’ Foreign Exchange Programme

Any resident interested in spending a period up to one month in departments of ophthalmology in the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, or Portugal should apply to: Mr Robert Ache-meron, Secretary of the Foreign Exchange Com-mittee, European Board of Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University Col-lege Dublin, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

International Strabismological Association

The International Strabismological Associa-tion (ISA) has established fellowships for training in strabismus and paediatric ophthal-mology, supported by $US10 000 each. Further details: Secretary/Treasurer ISA, Derek T Sprunger, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine, 702 Rotary Circle, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5175, USA. The last day of application is 15 June 2000 (tel: (317) 274-1214; fax: (317) 274-1111).

13th Annual Meeting of German Ophthalmic Surgeons

The 13th annual meeting of German Ophthal-mic Surgeons will be held on 15–18 June 2000 at the Meistersingerhalle, Nuremberg, Germany. Further details: MCN Medizinische Congress-organisation Nuremberg AG, Zerzabelhofstrasse 29, D-90478 Nuremberg, Germany (tel: +49-911-3931621; fax +49-911-3931620; email: doerflinger@mcn-nuremberg.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 Ophthal-mology Conference. Further details: Iceland Incentives Inc, Hamrøgave 1–3, Is- Kópavogur, Iceland (tel: +354 554 1400; fax: +354 554 1472; email: incentiv@it.is).

III Modern Cataract and Refractive Surgery International Symposium

The III Modern Cataract and Refractive Sur-gery International Symposium will be held on 19–22 June 2000 at Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. Further details: Eye Clinic FD Roosevelt Hospital, Arm Gen L Svobodu Sq 1, 975 17 Banska Bystrica, Slovakia (tel: 00421 88 413 4671; fax: 00421 88 413 2047).

6th Congress of the European Glaucoma Society

The 6th Congress of the European Glaucoma Society, millennium meeting 2000, will take place at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London on 26–29 June 2000. Further details: Euro-congress Conference Management BV, Jan van Goevenkade 11, 1075 HP Amsterdam, Netherlands (tel: +31 20 679 34 11; fax: +31 20 673 73 06; email: egs@eurocongresses.com).

British Ophthalmic Photographic Association


Joachim Kuhlmann Fellowship for Ophthalmologists 2000

The Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Essen, Germany, is sponsoring two fellow-ships per year for ophthalmologists at a well known institute, who want to train in CMV retinitis and other HIV related ophthalmologi-cal diseases. The fellowships are valued at $US5000 each. Deadline for application is 31 July 2000. Detailed applications, including CV and publication list, should be sent to the Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Bismarck-strasse 55, 45128 Essen, Germany (tel: 0201 87910-87; fax: 0201 87910-99; email: jk-stiftung@t-online.de).

DB-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 Secre-tariat, MGR Congressi, Via Servio Tullio, 4, 20123 Milano, Italy (tel: 39 02 430077; fax: 39 02 48008471; email: dr2000@mgr.it).
VIII Tuebingen Angiography course
The VIII Tuebingen Angiography course with wet lab will take place on 9 September 2000 in the auditorium, University Eye Clinic, Schleichstrasse 12, 72076 Tuebingen, Germany. Further details: WIT-Wissenstransfer, Universität Tübingen (tel: ++49 7071-29 76439; fax: ++49 7071 29 5051; email: wit@uni-tuebingen.de/wit).

30th Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium
The 30th Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium entitled “The Ageing Macula” will be held on 13–15 September 2000 at St John’s College Cambridge. Chairman: Professor Alan Bird. Further details: COS Secretariat, Cambridge Conferences, The Lawn, 33 Church Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5EL (tel: 01223 847464; fax: 01223 847465; email: b.ashworth@easy.net.co.uk).

European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER)
The European Association for Vision and Eye Research (EVER) will be meeting on 4–7 October 2000 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Further details: Secretariat EVER, Postbus 74, B3000 Leuven, Belgium (fax: +32 16 33 67 85; email: EVER@med.kuleuven.ac.be).

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics
The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics will be held on 2–5 November 2000 in Birmingham, AL, USA. Further details: Jimmy D Bartlett, OD, Department of Optometry, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1716 University Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35294-0010, USA (tel: 205-934-6764; fax: 205-975-7052; email: jbartlett@icare.opt.uab.edu).

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).

Singapore National Eye Centre 10th Anniversary International Congress
The Singapore National Eye Centre 10th Anniversary International Congress will be held in conjunction with 3rd World Eye Surgeons Society International Meeting on 2–4 December 2000 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. Further details: The Organising Secretariat, 11 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168751 (tel: (65) 2277235; fax: (65) 2277290; internet: www.snec.com.sg).

The Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium ’00
The Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium ’00 will be held 4–5 December 2000, in Hong Kong, China. Further information: Miss Vicki Wong, Room 802, 8/F Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong (tel: (852) 2761 9128; fax: (852) 2715 0089; email: cohk@netvigator.com).

Contributors please note:
Communications from all countries except the UK and Republic of Ireland should be sent to Professor C Hoyt, Editor, British Journal of Ophthalmology, University of California, Department of Ophthalmology, 10 Kirkham Street, K 301, San Francisco, CA 94143-0730, USA (tel: 001 415 502-6871; fax: 001 415 514-1512).

Manuscripts from the UK and the Republic of Ireland should be sent to Professor Andrew Dick, UK Editor, British Journal of Ophthalmology, Division of Ophthalmology, University of Bristol, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LX (tel: 0117 928-4827; fax: 0117 925-1421).