MAILBOX

Acanthamoeba keratitis occurring with daily disposable contact lens wear

EDITOR,—The term “disposable” contact lens is a misnomer perpetuated by the contact lens industry. Intuitively, a disposable item is discarded after use. Not so, however, for the “disposable” contact lens, as the term was introduced initially by the contact lens industry, for a lens that could be worn for 1, 2, or 4 weeks or on an extended wear basis and then be disposed of. A later term adopted by them was “planned replacement”, which is a better description of this lens wear modality. This differs from true “daily disposable” lens wear (a recent introduction), where each pair of contact lenses is worn only once and then discarded.

The primary difference between planned replacement and daily disposable contact lens wear is the modality of wear, not any particular feature of the contact lenses or their material. A patient could obtain daily disposable contact lenses, but decide to reuse them with appropriate cleaning and disinfection, and so would cease to be a daily disposable lens wearer and become a planned replacement lens wearer instead, though using the same contact lenses.

The patient reported by Woodruff and Dart behaved as described above, so the authors have not reported Acanthamoeba keratitis associated with daily disposable lens wear; they reported an Acanthamoeba keratitis infection associated with planned replacement lens wear, combined with an inadequate care regimen (saline). This has previously been well recorded.

It is important to warn patients that rewear- ing daily disposable contact lenses carries an increased risk of infection, and removes any benefit associated with this modality.

We agree with Woodruff and Dart that patients prescribed daily disposable lenses must be told not to reuse them. However, we do not agree that they have reported a case of Acanthamoeba keratitis with daily disposable lens wear. There has still been no report of Acanthamoeba keratitis with daily disposable lenses discarded daily. This lens wear modality affords great advantages over others, in terms of hygiene and simplicity, when used as intended. This needs to be emphasised as it is important that neither the public nor the eye-care professions are misled when used as intended. This needs to be still our concern.

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Decline in eye donation in the UK

EDITOR,—It was alarming to read the newsdesk item “Decline in eye donation in the UK continues” published in the November 1999 issue of BJO (p 1214), as stated by Dr John Armitage, the dramatic fall in eye donation is definitely a cause for concern. So far, the general impression was that the issue of eye donation is more complex and problematic in developing countries mainly because of the lack of awareness among the masses, besides many other secondary factors.

Could it be that rejection of more tissue samples, as a result of unsuitability has created resentment towards eye donation among the public? To overcome this problem we would suggest that if there is no systemic contraindication for the transplantation, all the donated tissues should be utilised either for PK/LK depending upon suitability.

Certainly, Armitage’s suggestion of enhancement of awareness about eye donation through different means is helpful. Besides, by strengthening the hospital tissue retrieval programme, more tissue is possible.

Moreover, the problem of uneven proportion of eye donations in different regions of the UK can be overcome by spreading eye information and eye collection centres evenly all over the country, which will be more cost effective.

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BOOK REVIEWS


When it comes to describing the clinical features of ocular tumours, Jerry and Carol Shields are in a class of their own. So when I came across their three new atlases at the trade exhibition of the International Congress of Ocular Oncology held recently in their home town, Philadelphia, I bought all three volumes there and then.

I certainly have not been disappointed. The Atlas of Intraocular Tumours alone contains almost 1500 illustrations, all of superb quality. The other atlases on conjunctival and orbital tumours are similar. The material includes illustrations of both “common” and rare tumours, usually with several photographs of each tumour showing variations in clinical presentation. Diagnostic approaches and treatments are also covered in a pictorial manner.

There are six illustrations per page, with a succinct legend beneath each figure. The illustrations are mostly displayed on the right hand page, with an introductory text and relevant references on the left hand page or at the top of the page (very “user friendly”).

Few ophthalmologists have the opportunity to see many ocular tumours and to develop their diagnostic skills. When given the opportunity, these “explanatory” presentations on tumour diagnosis, I have on several occasions noticed that members of an audience would fail to recognise a photograph of a “textbook” case, until I mentioned just one key sign, whereupon several delegates would suddenly call out the correct answer. This would suggest that texts have been memorised assiduously, but without learning what the clinical signs actually look like. The “Shields’ atlas” goes a long way towards solving this problem.

I expect that many ophthalmologists would enjoy browsing through these beautiful atlases not only to educate themselves for examinations otherwise or but also because the condi-
British Ophthalmic Photographic Association


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 $US5000 each. Deadline for application is 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).

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association will host the 10th International Mobility Conference at Warwick University on 4–7 August 2000. Further details: Guide Dogs, c/o Michelle Grant, One Events (tel: 020 8682 2442; email:michelle@one-events.com).

Ophthalmology 2000

A conference “Eye care in the clinic and the community” will be held 9–12 August 2000 in Melbourne, Australia. Further details: John Keefe, Centre for Eye Research Australia at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, 32 Gisbourne Street, East Melbourne 3002, Australia (tel: +61 3 9929 8360; fax: +61 3 9662 3859; email: 2000@cera.unimelb.edu.au).

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine—Millennium Ultrasound Course Series

A course entitled “Diagnostic Ultrasound in the 21st Century” will be held in New York City, NY, on 25–27 August 2000. Further details: Stacey Bessling, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14790 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sbessling@aium.org).

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 Tulliano, 20123 Milano, Italy (tel: 39 02 430071; 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, Schleitstrasse 12, 72076 Tuebingen, Germany. Further details: WIT-Wissenstransfer, Universitats Tubingen (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@easynet.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 85 85; email: EVER@med.kuleuven.ac.be).

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine—Millennium Ultrasound Course Series

A course entitled “Ultrasound Diagnosis and Management of Fetal Abnormalities” will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 3–5 November 2000. Further details: Stacey Bessling, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14790 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sbessling@aium.org).

Mind’s Eye 2—Psyche and Sight Loss

The Society for Psychosomatic Ophthalmology and the British Psycho-Analytical Society present a conference “Mind’s Eye 2—Psyche and Sight Loss” on 4 November 2000 at the Institute of Psycho-Analyasis, London. Further details: Mandy O’Keeffe, 67 Avenue Road, London N5 1BT (tel: 020 7288 2359; email: okeeffe@ukgateway.net).

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
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) 2761 9128; fax: (65) 2715 0089; email: cohk@netvigator.com).

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine—Millennium Ultrasound Course Series
A course entitled “Obstetrical Ultrasound” will be held in Marina del Rey, CA, on 12–14 January 2001. Further details: Stacey Bessling, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14750 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sbeijing@aium.org).

A course entitled “Obstetrical and Gynecological Ultrasound” will be held in New York City, NY, on 24–26 August 2001. Further details: Stacey Bessling, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14750 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sbeijing@aium.org).