Needle aspiration of a traumatic subperiosteal haematoma of the orbit

Subperiosteal haematomas of the orbit are an uncommon cause of proptosis after trauma. Complications include diplopia, persisting mass, and compressive optic neuropathy. Treatment options include observation, needle aspiration, and surgical evacuation. In symptomatic patients without indications for orbital exploration, treatment with needle aspiration is less invasive than surgical drainage. We report a case of a traumatic subperiosteal haematoma successfully treated with needle aspiration, demonstrating that in appropriate patients, needle aspiration can result in resolution of symptoms without a more invasive procedure.

Case report

A 9 year old girl presented with diplopia 4 days after falling off a fence and striking the right side of her face. She denied decreased visual acuity, eye pain, or previous history of diplopia or proptosis. Her past medical and ocular histories were unremarkable.

On examination, her visual acuity was 6/6 in both eyes. Pupils were equal and reactive with no afferent pupillary defect. Intraocular pressure was normal in both eyes. Her right eye was displaced inferotemporally, and Her- tel exophthalmometry showed 3 mm of proptosis of the right eye. The right eye was restricted in upgaze. External examination of the left eye, anterior segment examination of both eyes, and fundus examination of both eyes were normal.

Computed tomography (CT) of the orbits revealed an oval mass along the roof of the right orbit measuring 3.1 cm × 1.1 cm (Fig 1) with no bone discontinuity or fracture. Clinical history and CT were consistent with the diagnosis of subperiosteal haematoma. The patient was observed, and on follow up examination a week later she described increasing diplopia. Her eye continued to be displaced (Fig 2A), and there was restriction in upgaze, medial gaze, and lateral gaze. Treatment was recommended because of progression.

Drainage of the haematoma was performed by needle aspiration.1-3 With the patient under general anaesthesia, a 22 gauge, 1.5 inch needle on a syringe was advanced transcutaneously into the superior orbital notch until blood appeared in the syringe; 7 ml of dark red blood returned. The proptosis immediately resolved. On the first postoperative day, she had no proptosis or diplopia. Visual acuity was 6/6, and extraocular movements were full. She remained asymptomatic with a normal examination (Fig 2B) at the 6 month follow up visit.

Figure 1 CT scan demonstrates a well circumscribed mass in the right superior orbit.

Figure 2 (A) Preoperative photograph shows proptosis and inferotemporal displacement of the right eye. (B) One week postoperative photograph demonstrates resolution of proptosis and displacement.

Comment

Orbital subperiosteal haemorrhages are rare, resulting from rupture of subperiosteal vessels or extension of subgaleal haematomas.1-3 Haematomas develop acutely or within days of orbital trauma. Clinical findings include acute proptosis, limitation of motility, and compressive optic neuropathy.1 Chronic complications may occur from infection, expansion, strabismus, choroidal folds, or persisting mass.2 CT demonstrated a well defined, extraconal, blood dense mass adjacent to an orbital wall. Magnetic resonance imaging identified stages of blood degradation and differentiated blood from neoplasms. Differential diagnosis includes subperiosteal abscess, rhabdomyosarcoma, orbital pseudotumour, lymphangioma, carotid cavernous fistula, arteriovenous malformation, orbital haematoma, or frontal sinus mucocele.

Management options include observation, needle aspiration, and surgical evacuation. Small haemorrhages without decreased vision may be observed for spontaneous resolution. Intervention is recommended for compressive optic neuropathy, progressive proptosis, suspicion of a tumour, or rebleed.1 Drainage has been performed successfully through needle aspiration1-3 and surgical evacuation.4 Needle aspiration is less invasive, but does not remove clots or stop active bleeding. Orbital exploration allows removal of coagulated blood, drain placement, and fracture repair. In a review of 11 cases in the literature, six patients underwent needle aspiration, four patients underwent surgical evacuation, and one case spontaneously resolved after 6 months.3 Subperiosteal haematoma of the orbit must be considered in the differential diagnosis of unilateral proptosis after trauma. Haematoma can be observed when vision is not threatened. However, early intervention can hasten the resolution of symptoms and prevent chronic complications. Needle aspiration in appropriate cases is a successful and minimally invasive method of treatment.

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References


3 Pope-Pegram LD, Hamill MB. Post traumatic subgaleal haematoma with subperiosteal subgaleal haematoma post traumatic
Stellate tarsal conjunctival lesions in ocular adenoviral infection

Adenoviruses are a prevalent cause of viral conjunctivitis. Infected patients can present with a number of signs and symptoms, with varying degrees of clinical severity. Common examination findings include follicular conjunctivitis, serous discharge, keratitis, preauricular lymphadenopathy, and subconjunctival haemorrhages. Focal tarsal plate lesions have not previously been reported as being a feature of adenoviral conjunctivitis. We describe a case of adenoviral conjunctivitis in which the patient had distinctive stellate tarsal lesions in both eyes.

Case report

A 21 year old man presented with a 1 week history of bilateral red, painful eyes associated with photophobia, blurring of vision, and a mucous discharge. There was no history of respiratory tract infection, genitourinary symptoms or infectious contacts. Best corrected visual acuities were 6/6 bilaterally. On examination he was found to have unusual creamy white stellate lesions on his tarsal plates (Fig 1). These focal lesions were, on average, 1 × 1 mm in size and subepithelial in nature. In addition, both conjunctivae were hyperaemic, subepithelial corneal infiltrates were present, and there was a golden yellow brown mucous discharge.

A clinical diagnosis of adenoviral keratoconjunctivitis was made. The enzyme immunoassay test (Adenoviral, Cambridge Bioscience, Worcester, MA, USA) confirmed the presence of adenovirus in conjunctival swabs. Micro Tsk HSV-1/HSV-2 culture confirmation typing test (Syva Co, Palo Alto, CA, USA) failed to isolate HSV from either eye and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect Chlamydia trachomatis was also negative.

No bacterial species were isolated.

The patient was initially treated with topical chlorotetracline ointment four times a day and prednisolone drops three times a day, to each eye. When reviewed 1 week later, there was a marginal improvement in symptoms, although best corrected visual acuities had fallen to 6/9 bilaterally. The topical prednisolone was replaced by fluorometholone and the chlorotetracline was discontinued. Two weeks later, the patient’s symptoms had markedly improved and the topical steroid was reduced in frequency and then stopped. The visual acuities had by this time returned to 6/6 in both eyes. However, both the white tarsal stellate lesions and the corneal subepithelial infiltrates had persisted 2 months after complete resolution of symptoms.

Comment

Corneal subepithelial infiltrates are a known complication of adenoviral conjunctivitis.1 These lesions usually become apparent within 10–14 days after onset of symptoms and in some cases may persist for months or even years after the acute phase of the infection. Although the opacities gradually fade with time, those associated with reduced visual acuity may require a course of topical corticosteroids. However, return of the opacities can be seen with discontinuation of the corticosteroids.2 In cases of prolonged follicular conjunctivitis, equivocal ocular signs, or suspected superimposed infections, specimen culture is an important tool to aid diagnosis.3,4 Although small star-shaped ulcers (herpetic stellates) have been documented as a feature of adenoviral keratoconjunctivitis,5–7 we have not previously been reported as being a feature of adenoviral conjunctivitis.

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References

UBM was subsequently performed (Fig 1), and confirmed the presence of shallow anterior chambers with narrow angles in both eyes. The angle opening distance (AOD) (distance between the posterior corneal surface and anterior iris surface measured 500 µm) was measured on the UBM images according to Pavlin.3 AOD was less than 10 µm in both eyes. In addition, anterior chamber depth (ACD) was measured in one available image right eye and was found to be 1.7 mm. A ciliochoroidal effusion extending in all quadrants was present in both eyes. The ciliary body appeared slightly engorged and rotated anteriorly.

The patient was advised to discontinue Bactrim and was treated with fluorometholone and topical aqueous suppressants. On the following day, the anterior chambers were slightly deeper and the myopic shift was now only 2.25D. This further decreased over the following days with progressive deepening of the anterior chamber. One week after discontinuation of Bactrim, the patient's visual acuity was 20/20 in both eyes with her old prescription. Zeiss four mirror gonioscopy confirmed the presence of shallow anterior angles with narrow angles in both eyes.

To our knowledge acute myopia and ciliary body oedema due to renal failure has not been described as an ocular manifestation of Wegener's granulomatosis. The onset of symptoms after discontinuation of the drug can fully explain the myopic shift seen in our patient.

Comment

We report a case of acute transient myopia in a patient with renal failure secondary to Puumala virus. The UBM images support this proposed mechanism for the pathogenesis of acute drug induced myopia. The oedematous ciliary body became anteriorly rotated secondary to a ciliochoroidal effusion. This caused anterior movement of the lens-iris diaphragm with subsequent narrowing of the angle. Rotation of the ciliary body oedema can potentially have devastating consequences if left untreated or misdiagnosed as primary angle closure glaucoma. Physicians should be aware of this side effect of sulphonamides and their derivates and warn patients to report changes in their vision when initiating therapy with such agents.

Acknowledgements

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Figure 1 Ultrasound biomicroscopic images ((A) right eye, (B) left eye) of the angle and ciliary body during the acute phase. Anterior chamber angle (thin arrow) almost completely closed. Choroidal effusion (thick arrow) is present. The ciliary body (open arrow) is rotated anteriorly.

Figure 2 Ultrasound biomicroscopic images ((A) right eye, (B) left eye) of the angle and ciliary body during the convalescent phase. Anterior chamber angle (thin arrow) is now open. No choroidal effusion is present (thick arrow).
Cutaneous presentation of orbital follicular lymphoma: clinical differential diagnosis with lymphocytoma cutis

Cutaneous involvement from primary orbital lymphoma is uncommon. We report a patient with follicular lymphoma of the orbit who presented initially with cutaneous lesions clinically resembling lymphocytoma cutis which subsequently proved to be metastasis from the orbit.

Case report

A 75 year old woman presented to the dermatologist with a 6–7 month history of lumps on the right and left ears. Examination revealed two soft erythematous nodules, 2–3 cm in diameter behind the right ear and similar symmetrical lesions in both conchal bowls (Fig 1). There was no lymphadenopathy or hepatosplenomegaly. Full clinical examination, chest x-ray, full blood counts, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, U&E, and liver function tests were normal. A biopsy was performed. The clinical impression was that of lymphocytoma cutis and the lesions were treated with intraleisional steroids resulting in prompt resolution leaving behind only flat discoloured areas. However, histology showed a nodular dermal lymphoid infiltrate of centrocyte-like cells with only scanty scattered blasts. Immunophenotypically, the lesional cells were of B cell phenotype (CD20+, CD79a+, CD10+, CD23–, CD11c+, CD83+, CD123–, CD5−, CD23–), overall in keeping with follicular lymphoma, grade 1. On staging investigations there was no evidence of lymphoma in other sites and the lesions were deemed to represent primary cutaneous disease.

Three months later the patient developed progressively enlarging conjunctival lesions near the medial canthus in both eyes (Fig 2A). On examination she had bilateral subconjunctival fleshy lesions measuring about 5 mm. A computed tomograph (CT) scan showed a mass in the inferomedial aspects of the right orbit, extending down the nasolacrimal duct to the nasal cavity and a soft tissue mass confined to left orbit (Fig 2B). The lesion was biopsied and histologically showed features identical to those in the biopsy of the skin lesion: sheets of centrocytes with scanty centroblasts. On immunoassay both the cutaneous and the orbital tumours showed the same immunophenotype (CD20+, CD10+, bcl6+, bcl2+, MT2+, CD5−, CD23, CD43−) in keeping with grade 1 follicular lymphoma. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis with primers for immunoglobulin heavy chain revealed rearrangement of a prominent monoclonal band in an oligoclonal background. The initial biopsy of the cutaneous lesion on PCR analysis showed a monoclonal band of the same size as the orbital tumours. Staging confirmed this to be localised to the orbit but another plaque-like cutaneous lesion (1 cm in diameter) appeared on her forehead with the same histological, immunophenotypic, and molecular genetic features. The patient was commenced on chlorambucil chemotherapy with prompt resolution of the orbital and cutaneous lesions. She remains well at 18 months of follow up.

Comment

In this unusual case of orbital lymphoma the initial presentation was in the skin. On clinical examination the cutaneous changes were deemed to represent lymphocytoma cutis. The term lymphocytoma cutis stands for a highly heterogeneous group of reactive lymphoid proliferations in the skin. These include B antistaphylococcal IgM associated lesions, post-zoster scar reactions, trauma, and those of unknown aetiology. Clinically, they are characterised by flesh coloured to plum red dermal and subcutaneous nodules and plaques as in our case. They can be solitary or multiple. It is more common females (F:M = 3:1), mostly involving the face (70%). Lymphocytoma cutis has also been reported with conjunctival lesions. We would like to stress that despite typical clinical appearance before diagnosis of lymphocytoma cutis is made, full pathological investigation with immunophenotyping and molecular genetic analysis is essential.

In the interval before the clinical appearance of the orbital tumours in our patient the cutaneous lesions were considered to represent a primary follicular lymphoma at this site. This accounts for 10% of cutaneous B cell neoplasms and follows a very indolent clinical course during which it remains confined to the skin. Distinction between primary and secondary involvement is of paramount importance. Secondary cutaneous involvement by follicular lymphoma is not associated with such a favourable prognosis. Morphologically there is no difference between the two; however, the primary cutaneous type is usually bcl-2 negative on immunostaining and the t (14; 18) is hardly ever found. It is therefore regarded by some authors as part of the spectrum of cutaneous marginal zone lymphomas rather than follicular lymphoma.

At clinical presentation of the orbital tumours in our patient, as recommended by EORTC the lesions in the skin were deemed to represent secondary involvement from the primary site in the orbit though orbital lesions were recognised later. On PCR analysis for B cell clonality it was apparent that the two lesions represented the same tumour. Follicular lymphoma in the orbit accounts for 20–33% of all lymphomas in this site. Its pathological features in the orbit are no
different from the lymph node counterparts and, unlike those in the skin, are bcl-2 positive and bare the t (14; 18). Early extraorbital spread is regarded a sign of more aggressive behaviour and a potential indicator for poorer prognosis. Secondary cutaneous involvement from a primary orbital lymphoma is an uncommon event with only one case described in the literature while the primary cutaneous lymphomas occurs more frequently.1

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References

NOTICES

Childhood blindness

The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 40) discusses new issues in childhood blindness, with an editorial by Clare Gilbert, senior lecturer at the International Centre for Eye Health. For further information please contact: Journal of Community Eye Health, International Centre for Eye Health, Institute of Ophthalmology, 11-43 Bath Street, London EC1V 9EL, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7608 6910; fax: +44 (0)20 7250 3207; email: eyeresource@uc.ac.uk; website: www.jchc.co.uk). Annual subscription (4 issues) UK£25/US$40. Free to workers in developing countries.

International Centre for Eye Health

The International Centre for Eye Health has published a new edition of the Standard List of Medicines, Equipment, Instruments and Optical Supplies (2001) for eye care services in developing countries. It is compiled by the Task Force of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Further details: Sue Stevens, International Centre for Eye Health, 11-43 Bath Street, London EC1V 9EL, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7608 6910; email: eyeresource@uc.ac.uk).

Second Sight

Second Sight, a UK based charity whose aims are to eliminate the backlog of cataract blind in India by the year 2020 and to establish strong links between Indian and British ophthalmologists, is regularly sending volunteer surgeons to India. Details can be found at the charity website (www.secondsight.org.uk) or by contacting Dr Lucy Mathen (lucymathen@yahoo.com).

Specific Eye ConditionS (SPECS)

Specific Eye ConditionS (SPECS) is a not for profit organisation which acts as an umbrella organisation for support groups of any conditions or syndrome with an integral eye disorder. SPECS represents over fifty different organisations related to eye disorders ranging from conditions that are relatively common to very rare syndromes. We also include groups who offer support of a more general nature to visually impaired and blind people. Support groups meet regularly in the Boardroom at Moorfields Eye Hospital to offer support to each other, share experiences and explore new ways of working together. The web site www.eyeconditions.org.uk acts as a portal giving direct access to support groups own sites. The SPECS web page is a valuable resource for professionals and may also be of interest to people with a visual impairment or who are blind. For further details about SPECS contact: Kay Parkinson, SPECS Development Officer (tel: +44 (0)1803 524238; email: k>(); eyeconditions.org.uk; www.eyeconditions.org.uk).

12th Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetic Eye Complications (EASDEC)

The 12th meeting of the EASDEC will be held on 24–26 May 2002 in Udine, Italy. The deadline for abstracts is 15 February 2002. Three travel grants for young members (less than 35 years of age at the time of the meeting) are available. For information on the travel grants, please contact P Dr CD Agardh, President of EASDEC, Malmö University Hospital, SE-205 03 Malmö, Sweden (tel: +46 40 33 10 16; fax: +46 40 33 10 16; email: carl-david.agardh@endo.mas.lu.se). Further details: NORD EST CONGRESSI, Via Aquileja, 21–33100 Udine, Italy (tel: +39 0432 21391; fax: +39 0432 50687; email: nordest.congressi@ud.net.tunno.it).

3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Treatment of Autoimmune Disorders

The 3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Treatment of Autoimmune Disorders will be held in Leipzig, Germany on the 6–8 June 2002. Topics to be covered include: basic aspects of autoimmune diseases, experimental therapeutic concepts, and clinical studies providing novel concepts or novel focus on established therapies. There will also be the presentation of the Nils-Illa-Richter Award (application deadline is April 2002, further details on the web site). Further details: Prof. Dr. med. Michael Sticherling, Department of Dermatology, University of Leipzig (email: stcm@medizin.uni-leipzig.de; website: www.autoimmun.org); Fördergesellschaft zur Therapie von Autoimmunerkrankungen e.V. (email: autoimmun.org@gmx.de).

International Society for Behçet’s Disease

The 10th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease will be held in Berlin 27–29 June 2002. Further details: Professor Ch Zouboulis (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Singapore National Eye Centre

5th International Meeting

The Singapore National Eye Centre 5th International Meeting will be held on 3–5 August 2002 in Singapore. Further details: Ms Amy Lim, Organising Secretariat, Singapore National Eye Centre, 11 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168751 (tel: (65) 322 8374; fax: (65) 227 7290; email: Amy_Lim@sncec.com.sg).

BEAVRS Meeting

The next BEAVRS meeting will be held in the Dalmahoy Hotel near Edinburgh on 31 October to 1 November 2002. Further details: Susan Campbell, Medical Secretary, Gartnavel General Hospital (email: susan.j.campbell.wg@northglasgow.scot.nhs.uk).