A comparison of perimetric results with the Medmont and Humphrey perimeters

J Landers, A Sharma, I Goldberg, S Graham

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**Background:** The Humphrey field analyser (HFA), Humphrey-Zeiss frequency doubling perimeter, and the Medmont automated perimeter (MAP) are three commonly used automated perimeters with threshold achromatic methodologies. Visual field loss may be detected earlier with strategies that target cell lines with reduced redundancy or which suffer selective damage.

**Method:** To compare these three perimeters, 63 subjects who were glaucoma suspects, ocular hypertensives, glaucoma patients, or normal controls were recruited selectively. All subjects underwent testing using MAP central threshold, MAP flicker perimeter, HFA full threshold, HFA SITA perimeter, HFA short wavelength perimeter (SWAP), and frequency doubling perimeter (FDP). After visual field testing, equivalent tests were compared: MAP central threshold with HFA full threshold and HFA SITA perimeter; Medmont flicker perimeter with HFA SWAP and FDP.

**Results:** On analysis of the MAP central threshold a kappa statistic and an area under the receiver operator curve (AUC) of 0.90 and 0.94, respectively, were found compared with HFA full threshold strategies, and 0.87 and 0.92 respectively, compared with HFA SITA. For MAP flicker a kappa statistic and an AUC of 0.65 and 0.81, respectively, were found compared with HFA SWAP and 0.87 and 0.96, respectively, compared with FDP. A quadrant analysis and comparison of mean defect between tests was also highly significant.

**Conclusion:** Medmont and Humphrey perimeters correlated well; both may be used for clinical and research purposes with similar confidence.

Automated perimetry provides a reliable, accurate, and reproducible method of visual field testing. One of the most important benefits of automation has been the ability to standardise test procedures. Conventional static achromatic automated perimetry (AAP), however, may only show visual field losses if up to 50% of the ganglion cells are lost. More recently, tests of early visual field loss, such as flicker perimeter, short wavelength automated perimetry (SWAP), and frequency doubling perimeter (FDP) have detected visual field losses before achromatic perimetry.

Three commonly utilised automated perimetric systems in Australia are the Humphrey field analyser (HFA), the Humphrey-Zeiss frequency doubling perimeter, and the Medmont automated perimeter (MAP). The HFA uses a hemispheric projection bowl of radius 33 cm with a uniform background illumination of 31.5 apostils (asb). A projection device presents a light stimulus at specified points in the visual field. While stimulus size may be varied, the most common used has a diameter of 0.43° (Goldmann size III); it is usually white, but may be red, blue, or green. To test for fixation loss, a stimulus is presented at the blind spot intermittently through the test; this should yield no response if a patient is fixating correctly. In some models, patient fixation can be monitored directly by the technician using a video camera.

The HFA can be used in full threshold mode, which uses the threshold levels determined at one primary point in each quadrant as a starting level for neighbouring points. In turn, these are used as starting intensity levels for their neighbouring points, and so on. At each point, stimulus intensity is increased in 4 dB steps until threshold is crossed from non-seeing to seeing, and then reduced in 2 dB steps to check and refine the accuracy of the assessment.

Test time can be reduced by the utilisation of a more recently developed program called Swedish Interactive Thresholding Algorithm (SITA). This testing strategy continuously estimates both the threshold values and the measurement errors of those values using Bayesian posterior probability calculations. Continuously modified staircase procedures are used to alter stimulus intensities at the test locations; these staircases are interrupted when measurement errors are reduced to predetermined levels. This coupled with a reduction in the number of catch trials for determination of frequencies of false positive answers and an increase in speed of stimulus presentation as permitted by patient responsiveness leads to significant reductions in test time while retaining accuracy.

For short wavelength automated perimeter (SWAP), the HFA background illumination is altered to a yellow light at 100 cd/m² with the target a blue stimulus (440 nm), Goldmann size V (1.72° diameter). Blue-on cell pathways can be tested in isolation when the yellow background effectively reduces the sensitivities of red and green cones. Johnson postulated that as blue-on cells are the largest colour sensitive cells, they are more likely to be lost selectively in glaucoma. Furthermore, because blue-on cells have larger receptive fields and are fewer in number, there is less overlap than there is for red and green receptive fields. This reduced redundancy, postulated Johnson, allows these areas of axonal loss to be detected by SWAP before AAP.

MAP utilises a 30 cm radius perimetric bowl with 164 green light emitting diodes (wavelength 565 nm) acting as the stimulus. The background illuminating light source maintains an illumination of 10 asb. Unable to be varied in size or hue, each stimulus is an equivalent Goldmann size III. Fixation is monitored with stimulus points presented within the blind spot. Central fixation is not directly video monitored.

Central threshold testing is performed in a pattern, which tests the visual field to 22° from central fixation superiorly.
inferiorly, and temporally, and to 30° nasally. It uses a testing strategy which decreases stimulus intensity by 6 dB until threshold is crossed and then reverses in steps of 3 dB until the threshold sensitivity at a particular test location is confirmed.

The MAP may be modified to perform flicker perimetry. Targets are presented in a 22° radius of the central visual field at frequencies varying from 9–18 Hz (depending on target eccentricity). Target luminance is varied in order to determine threshold. False positive responses were tested with static stimuli. Flicker perception is thought to be conveyed through the magnocellular (M) pathway. Being larger in size, M cells may be lost earlier in glaucoma by means of selective loss and, as they only constitute 25% of ganglion cells, tests which target them, such as flicker perimetry, may be more likely to detect these losses earlier than conventional perimetry because of reduced redundancy.

Frequency doubling perimetry (FDP) uses 10° square target zones, consisting of alternating vertical white and black stripes (spatial frequency 0.25 cycles per degree, cpd). These stripes are then reversed at a rate of 25 Hz and the contrast between the stripes is changed to determine sensitivity. The test has been used to detect established visual field losses in the same way that HFA AAP does. However, recently its ability to detect early visual field losses has been explored.

FDP seems to target a subset of the magnocellular pathway with non-linear or Y-like properties (My pathway). This pathway makes up only approximately 15% of the magnocellular system. As larger cells and relatively few in number, they may be more susceptible to selective loss and reduced redundancy, allowing an earlier detection of any fall in cell numbers.

**METHOD**

A total of 63 patients were recruited selectively from a patient population attending an urban glaucoma clinic. None of these had diabetes, cataract, or corneal or retinal disease, which could affect test results. Patients were glaucoma suspects, had ocular hypertension, open angle glaucoma, or were control subjects. The glaucoma suspect group had a family history of glaucoma or had suspicious discs but with no definite structural changes and normal intraocular pressure (IOP <21 mm Hg) and visual fields. Ocular hypertension was diagnosed as IOP >21 mm Hg on at least three occasions with no previous field changes on full threshold HFA testing and no evidence of glaucomatous optic neuropathy. Open angle glaucoma patients had glaucomatous optic disc changes with or without characteristic visual field abnormality on 24-2 HFA full threshold testing. Among patients with glaucoma, ocular hypertension, or glaucoma suspects, only those patients were included who had at least two consecutive visual fields, performed within the past 2 years. One eye from each patient was considered. When both eyes were eligible a random choice was made.

Medmont, HFA, and FDP were performed in random order after informed consent was obtained. The Humphrey field analyser II (Carl Zeiss, Dublin, CA, USA) was used to perform central 24-2 full threshold, central 24-2 SITA standard and central 24-2 SWAP tests. The determination of a significant scotoma was based on the pattern deviation of the HFA probability plot. Visual field loss was considered significant if it had a pattern typical of glaucoma and occurred in a field with five or more points of p <5%, with a cluster of three or more abnormal points of p >5%, or two or more points of p <1%.

The Medmont M600 automated perimeter (Medmont, Camberwell, Victoria, Australia) was used to perform central 30 degree threshold and 15/22 flicker perimetry. The determination of a significant scotoma was based on the age normal plot of the Medmont M600 printout. Before the analysis, both strict and loose scotoma criteria were developed. For the former, visual field loss was considered significant if it had a pattern typical of glaucoma and occurred in a field with six or more points of >6 dB depressed, with a cluster of four or more abnormal points of >6 dB depressed, or three or more points of >18 dB depressed. For the latter, a scotoma was considered significant if it had a pattern typical of glaucoma and occurred in a cluster of three or more points depressed >6 dB, or two or more points >18 dB.

The Humphrey-Zeiss frequency doubling perimeter (Carl Zeiss, Dublin, CA, USA) was used to perform N-30 full threshold testing. Visual field loss was considered significant if there were two or more adjacent zones of p <5%, or one zone of p <1% on the FDP pattern deviation. In all cases, fields were considered reliable if there were less than 33% false negative and false positive errors and less than 20% fixation losses.

All patients underwent all five perimetric tests. In order to compare Medmont with other equivalent perimetric methods.

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**Table 1** Description of patients within the study groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Males (%)</th>
<th>Mean age (SD)</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7 (47%)</td>
<td>52 years (15 years)</td>
<td>29–75 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma suspects</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 (63%)</td>
<td>56 years (16 years)</td>
<td>35–77 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular hypertension</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1 (13%)</td>
<td>60 years (9 years)</td>
<td>47–74 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open angle glaucoma</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16 (50%)</td>
<td>64 years (9 years)</td>
<td>41–79 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2** Description of the amount of visual field loss for patients within the study groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Average (SD)</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>−0.75 (1.05)</td>
<td>0.59 to −2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma suspects</td>
<td>−0.66 (1.23)</td>
<td>1.57 to −1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocular hypertension</td>
<td>−1.19 (2.39)</td>
<td>0.90 to −6.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open angle glaucoma</td>
<td>−8.20 (7.51)</td>
<td>1.04 to −26.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3** Mean test time (SD) for Humphrey and Medmont perimeter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Mean test time</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medmont central threshold</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>51 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medmont flicker perimetry</td>
<td>9 minutes</td>
<td>1 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey full threshold</td>
<td>47 seconds</td>
<td>6 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey SITA</td>
<td>44 seconds</td>
<td>12 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short wavelength automated perimeter</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>1 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency doubling perimetry</td>
<td>35 seconds</td>
<td>43 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey Zeiss FDP</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>1 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey Zeiss full threshold</td>
<td>8 seconds</td>
<td>30 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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we compared Medmont central 30 degree threshold perimetry with HFA central 24-2 full threshold and central 24-2 SITA standard. Medmont 15/22 flicker perimetry was compared with HFA central 24-2 SWAP and FDP N-30 full threshold.

The comparisons were multifactorial. To demonstrate the ability of Medmont to localise scotomas in the same areas as the Humphrey perimeter, a quadrant analysis was performed. The abnormal points within each quadrant were totalled and tests were compared with simple linear regression. A kappa statistic was calculated to demonstrate the degree of agreement the tests. Finally, an area under the receiver operator curve (ROC) curve was calculated for each pair of tests being compared.

Statistical Analysis System (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC, USA) was used for statistical analysis including frequency tables, descriptive statistics, Student’s t test and simple linear regression. Excel 97 (Microsoft, Redmond, WA, USA) was used in the calculation of area under the ROC curve and the kappa statistic.

**RESULTS**

Consisting of 34 females (54%) and 29 males (46%), the average age of the participants was 60 years (standard deviation 13 years). There were 15 controls (24%), eight glaucoma suspects (13%), eight ocular hypertensives (13%), and 32 open angle glaucoma patients (51%). A description of these groups and the amount of visual field loss is shown in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. The mean test times for Humphrey and Medmont perimetry are displayed in Table 3.

When Medmont central threshold was compared with HFA full threshold (Tables 4 and 5), a scotoma analysis yielded a kappa statistic of 0.90 under the strict criteria and 0.72 under the loose criteria. The area under the ROC curve was 0.94, indicating a strong correlation between the two tests (Table 5).
When Medmont central threshold was compared with HFA SITA standard (Tables 4 and 5), this showed a kappa statistic of 0.87 under the strict criteria and 0.72 under the loose criteria. The area under the ROC curve was 0.92 (Table 5), again indicating a strong correlation. These findings were supported by the quadrant analysis and mean deviation $r^2$ statistics, which also show highly significant correlations between Medmont central threshold and HFA full threshold or SITA standard. HFA SITA was significantly faster than Medmont central threshold ($p<0.001$), but Medmont central threshold and HFA full threshold had no significant difference in test time ($p=0.53$).

After Medmont flicker was compared with HFA SWAP (Table 6), this yielded a kappa statistic of 0.65 and 0.62 for the strict and loose criteria respectively. The area under the ROC curve was 0.81 (Table 7). When compared with FDP (Table 6) the kappa statistic was 0.87 and 0.78 for the strict and loose criteria respectively. The area under the ROC curve was 0.96 (Table 7). The $r^2$ statistics from the quadrant and mean deviation analysis were also highly significant, although more so for FDP than for SWAP. FDP was significantly faster than Medmont flicker ($p<0.001$), but Medmont flicker was significantly faster than SWAP ($p<0.01$).

**DISCUSSION**

The Medmont M600 perimeter, brought out in the late 1980s, was promoted as quicker than HFA in performing a full threshold analysis of the visual field. Possibly, recent advances in HFA full threshold analysis have meant that it can be performed in the same time as Medmont. SITA dramatically reduces test time. In this study, Medmont yielded results comparable with those of the HFA and the FDP (Fig 1).

Although Medmont’s step size is larger than HFA (6 dB versus 4 dB) this has been reported not to cause any difference in accuracy on measuring scotoma size. Other Medmont parameters are similar to HFA and this is reflected in the high correlation between the two kinds of achromatic perimetry.

A flickering stimulus will target the magnocellular pathway and this has been the basis for many tests of visual field loss. Medmont flicker correlates strongly with FDP in all of the parameters tested. As Medmont flicker targets a subgroup of ganglion cells which are felt to be lost early in glaucoma, it may be detecting visual field losses that may precede detection with achromatic perimetry. Support for this is seen not only in the correlation with FDP but also with SWAP which has the ability to detect scotomas before they become manifest on AAP. While Medmont flicker cannot be performed as rapidly as FDP, it may be quicker than SWAP.

**Table 7** Comparison of Medmont flicker perimetry with Humphrey short wavelength perimetry and Humphrey frequency doubling perimetry showing kappa statistic, area under the ROC curve (AUC), quadrant analysis, and mean defect correlation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medmont flicker (strict)</th>
<th>Medmont flicker (loose)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compared with</td>
<td>Compared with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey short</td>
<td>Humphrey full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wavelength perimetry</td>
<td>wavelength perimetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector correlation</td>
<td>Sector correlation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>($r^2$ statistic)</td>
<td>($r^2$ statistic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superonasal</td>
<td>Superonasal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.48**</td>
<td>0.67**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supero temporal</td>
<td>Supero temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25**</td>
<td>0.79**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferonasal</td>
<td>Inferonasal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.17*</td>
<td>0.64**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infero temporal</td>
<td>Infero temporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.72**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean defect correlation</td>
<td>Mean defect correlation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>($r^2$ statistic)</td>
<td>($r^2$ statistic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.57**</td>
<td>0.79**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.001, **p<0.0001.

**Figure 1** Pattern deviation from two patients (MF1, MF65).
We conclude that Medmont and Humphrey perimetry correlated favourably with one another, and therefore, both may be used for clinical and research purposes with similar confidence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Authors’ affiliations

J Landers, A Sharma, I Goldberg, S Graham, Eye Associates, Park House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Australia

S Graham, Save Sight Institute, Sydney University, Sydney, Australia

Correspondence to: Dr John Landers, Park House, Floor 4, Suite 2, 187 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia; landers@lisp.com.au

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REFERENCES


Laser induced choriotinal venous anastomosis in ischaemic central retinal vein occlusion

Laser induced choriotinal venous anastomosis (CRVA) has been advocated by McAllister and Constable as a treatment for non-ischaemic central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO). This technique potentially offers a means of permanently bypassing the site of obstruction to venous outflow, which is thought to occur in the region of the lamina cribrosa. In ischaemic CRVO, the visual prognosis is usually much poorer, with devastating complications like neovascular glaucoma and progressive macular ischaemia. In this prospective study, we investigated the feasibility of laser induced CRVA in eyes with ischaemic CRVO, in view of the possibility of avoiding or lessening these severe complications.

Materials and methods

The classification of ischaemic CRVO was based on the presence of 10 disc diameter or more of capillary non-perfusion in the fundus based on the presence of 1 disc diameter away from the optic disc. Argon or diode laser with 50 µm spot size of 0.1–0.2 second’s duration and with a power level of 1.5–2.5 W was focused over the edge of the chosen retinal vein. Increasing power was used until there was haemorrhaging from the vein (Fig 1A). The bleeding was stopped by pressure on the eye with a contact lens.

Results

Six eyes of six patients were included (Table 1). All of them had posterior vitreous detachment. Median follow up was 21 months (range 5–31 months). The median preoperative best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was 3/200 (range, hand movement to 8/200). The median postoperative best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was 2/200 (range, hand movement to 20/200). The median number of attempted anastomosis sites per eye was four (range, two to four). Through repeated ophthalmoscopic examination, FFA, and indocyanine green angiography, no functional anastomosis was found. A small nodular fibrotic scar was noted in each site (Fig 1B). No other significant laser related complication was found. One eye eventually developed rubeotic glaucoma.

Comment

In non-ischaemic CRVO, a successful CRVA was created in 33–54% of eyes.13 Laser photocoagulation treatment parameters differed, because the superiority of one combination of parameters compared with another had not been demonstrated.13 In our study, it appears that argon or diode laser induced CRVA was not feasible in ischaemic CRVO. We attribute this to the severe endothelial cell damage secondary to ischaemia and venous thrombosis across the retinal circulation. In a dog model without retinal vein occlusion, a successful laser induced CRVA was shown to be lined by endothelial cells. Despite the failure to create functional CRVA, we did not encounter any adverse complication related to the laser treatment. The presence of posterior vitreous detachment in our patients might have lessened the chance of development of chorioretinovitreal neovascularisation. Successful CRVA in ischaemic CRVO has been reported to be established through pars plana vitrectomy with direct surgical puncture or eritum:YAG laser.14 This surgical approach may be a better option to create CRVA in ischaemic eyes, especially when the posterior hyaloid is still attached preoperatively.

Table 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria of patients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion criteria:</th>
<th>Exclusion criteria:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Confirmed presence of central retinal vein occlusion</td>
<td>1. Intercurrent eye disease of study eye that is likely to affect visual acuity over study period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Central retinal vein occlusion &lt;3 months’ duration</td>
<td>2. Presence of any diabetic retinopathy in either eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Visual acuity &lt;/20/200</td>
<td>3. New or old branch artery/vein occlusion in study eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Intraocular pressure &lt;30 mm Hg</td>
<td>4. Other retinal vascular disease in study eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ability to obtain good quality fundus photographs and angiograms</td>
<td>5. Vitreous haemorrhage other than breakthrough in study eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Age ≥21 years old</td>
<td>6. Presence of neovascularisation of the study eye (iris, angle, retina, disc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Heparin/warfarin sodium cannot be discontinued for duration of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Impossible to differentiate between ischaemic and non-ischaemic central retinal vein occlusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Baseline and outcome characteristics of patients receiving laser treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient No.</th>
<th>Sex/age</th>
<th>Interval of CRVO and laser (weeks)</th>
<th>Laser used</th>
<th>No of laser sessions</th>
<th>No of laser sites attempted</th>
<th>Total No of laser sites</th>
<th>Initial BCVA</th>
<th>Final BCVA</th>
<th>Duration of follow up (month)</th>
<th>Complication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M/79</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Argon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8/200</td>
<td>HM</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Neovascular glaucoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F/80</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diode</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/200</td>
<td>2/200</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>F/54</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Argon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4/200</td>
<td>20/200</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>M/53</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Diode</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8/200</td>
<td>5/200</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>F/80</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Argon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HM</td>
<td>HM</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>F/78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Argon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>HM</td>
<td>2/200</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRVO = central retinal vein occlusion, BCVA = best corrected visual acuity.
Actinic granuloma of the conjunctiva

Actinic granuloma is a condition characterised, histologically, by a preponderance of giant cells in close relation with damaged elastic fibres and the absence of necrobiosis, lipid, mucin, and palisading of the elastic fibres and the absence of necrobiosis, as described by Ragaz and Ackerman  who believed that granulomatous features suggestive of actinic granuloma (Fig 2).

Over the past three decades, three cases of actinic granuloma of the conjunctiva have been documented in the literature (Table 1).**

The paucity of reports ensures that the condition is under-recognised both clinically and pathologically. We describe a further case with the novel association of scleral thinning, and further review the literature with reference to pathogenesis, disease associations, treatment, and significance for both ophthalmologists and pathologists.

Case history

A 67 year old white woman presented to the ophthalmology department with a 3 week history of a painless, red right eye. She had no previous ophthalmic problems. Significant previous ophthalmic problems. Significant

Case 1, Proia et al.

Patient age (years): 38

Sex: Female

Location: Temporal bulbar conjunctiva

Size of lesion: 2 mm

Clinical presentation: 3/52 History of painless red eye

Differential diagnosis: Vascularised pinguecula

Case 2, Ferry et al.

Patient age (years): 30

Sex: Female

Location: Temporal bulbar conjunctiva

Size of lesion: 2 × 3 mm

Clinical presentation: 6/52 History of red eye

Differential diagnosis: Pingueculitis, contact lens reaction, conjunctival naevus

Case 3, Steffen et al.

Patient age (years): 39

Sex: Female

Location: Conjunctiva, site unknown

Size of lesion: Not known

Clinical presentation: Not known

Differential diagnosis: Not known

Case 4, Gallagher et al.

Patient age (years): 67

Sex: Female

Location: Nasal bulbar conjunctiva

Size of lesion: 3 × 3 mm

Clinical presentation: 3/52 History of painless red eye

Differential diagnosis: Boston's disease, metastasis

Comment

O'Brien, in his original description of actinic granuloma, described the pathogenesis as a phenomenon of repair occurring in damaged connective tissue.3 This concept was disputed by Ragaz and Ackerman4 who believed that the granulomatous inflammation was not a response to degenerative elastic fibres but...
that the lesions described by O’Brien represented variants of granuloma annulare, a disorder of skin and ocular adnexae. The existence of conjunctival actinic granulomas in isolation distinguishes this condition from granuloma annulare and implies that granuloma formation can occur in response to elastotic material. Furthermore, actinic granulomas are histologically distinct with prominent elastotic degeneration of connective tissue fibres, giant cells, and inconspicuous palisading of epithelioid histiocytes.

McGrae postulated that actinic granuloma represented a cell-mediated immune response to weakly antigenic determinants on actinic-heat-damaged (elastotic) skin. It is hypothesised that actinic radiation selectively injures elastic tissue in the skin and its superficial arteries and this tissue may then become antigenic, with local, humoral, and systemic overtones. It is reported that the serum of patients with untreated giant cell arteritis contains a significantly elevated level of an elastase in the form of matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP-9) and that this enzyme was found to be abundant in the vicinity of damaged temporal internal elastic laminae. Gillet et al. observed that sera from 12 of 13 patients with untreated giant cell arteritis contained high levels of elastase derived elastin peptides and that the peptides were targeted by T lymphocytes such as appear in the actual lesions. This mode of autoimmune reaction complies with the “danger” model of autoimmunity described by Matzinger and appraised by Larkin.

Our case presented with the novel association of an underlying focal scleral atrophy. Negative investigations for scleritis would suggest that this feature may be an extension of the autoimmune process representative of actinic granuloma rather than an independent idiopathic scleritis. It is interesting to note that all documented cases of actinic granuloma of the conjunctiva have occurred in females which would be supportive of an autoimmune pathogenesis. Clinically, the differential diagnosis of conjunctival actinic granuloma includes pingueculitis, Bowen’s disease, conjunctival naevus, granuloma annulare (pseudorheumatoid nodule), and episcleral rheumatoid nodules.

Pathologically, the differential diagnosis includes pingueculae, pingueculitis, infection—particularly fungal, parasitic, or mycobacterial—and foreign body reactions. However, there is no granulomatous reaction to the actinic elastosis in pingueculae. In fungal and parasitic lesions there is often a prominent eosinophilic infiltrate associated with the granulomas. Caseous necrosis is seen in mycobacterial infections. In difficult cases special stains may help. Polarisated light microscopy rules out the presence of any birefringent material.

Actinic granuloma of the conjunctiva represents a distinct clinical, histopathological, and immunological entity. Its classic presentation over a short period of a few weeks and poor response to topical steroid treatment should aid the ophthalmologist in recognising this lesion. Of practical importance to the ophthalmic pathologist is recognition that the granulomatous inflammation may be associated with elastotic degeneration and does not necessarily imply the presence of a foreign body, fungal, or mycobacterial infection.

M J Gallagher, F Roberts, S Osborne, C M Kirkness
Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology, Gartnavel General Hospital, Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0YN, UK
Correspondence to: Stuart A Osborne, Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology, Gartnavel General Hospital, Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0YN, UK; stozzie@hotmail.com
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References

Unilateral nasal hemianopia secondary to posterior subcapsular cataract

Visual field defects respecting the vertical midline are a common occurrence associated with focal neurological lesions. However, unilateral nasal hemianopsias are rare defects, documented to be associated with pituitary adenomas, temporal optic nerve lesions, and uprasellar aneurysms. Cataracts are known to depress the overall sensitivity of the visual field, but localised visual field defects due to cataract are extremely rare and, to our knowledge, only three other cases have been reported in the literature. We report a case of a right unilateral nasal hemianopia resulting from central posterior subcapsular lens opacity.

Case report
A 51 year old woman treated for normal tension glaucoma in her right eye for 2 years attended for a review of her glaucoma following a change of medication with the addition of bimodinine eye drops to dorzolamide eye drops. At this 3 monthly review the patient
Comments

Mean deviation from vertical midline was confirmed on a clinically 1/70 mm Hg, were also unremarkable.

Dilated slit lamp biomicroscopy revealed marked central posterior subcapsular lens opacity with very mild subcapsular changes in the other eye. Retinal examination demonstrated a normal. Retinal examination was normal and the optic discs pathologically cupped with inferior rim thinning; changes consistent with glaucoma, although there were no documented changes from the previous visit 6 months earlier.

Further neurological and cardiovascular examination documented a blood pressure of 170/70 mm Hg, were also unremarkable.

The right nasal hemianopsia respecting the vertical midline was confirmed on a clinically reliable Humphrey 24-2 plot with a change in mean deviation from -5.94 to -17.43 from the previously documented visual field (see Fig 1). The visual field of the left eye was normal. Routine blood tests and chest x-ray were normal. A computed tomograph (CT) scan of the brain, orbits and visual pathways was also unremarkable. In the absence of a focal neurological lesion this woman subsequently underwent an uncomplicated right phacoemulsification and intraocular lens replacement. A repeat red spot visual field revealed complete reversal of the previously documented right nasal hemianopsia, and a restoration of the visual acuity to 6/6.

Comment

Media opacities are known to cause visual field defects,* the degree of which varies from generalised depression of the visual field† to apparent scotomatous areas. Localised paraxial lens opacities causing defects mimicking neurological abnormalities are extremely rare. These opacities necessitate a posterior position in the lens to produce a relative scotoma. An opacity in the media anteriorly placed produce generalised reduction in the visual field. A repeat red spot visual field revealed complete reversal of the previously documented right nasal hemianopsia, and a restoration of the visual acuity to 6/6.

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Our case is unusual in that the cataract was placed centrally, not temporally as may be expected with a nasal defect. Further, the history suggested a sudden onset which necessitated neurological examination and investigation. "We feel it would have been inappropriate to proceed to surgical intervention without previous investigation, which should always include a CT scan (more preferably, if readily available, an magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan), of the optic nerves and visual pathways. This unusual visual field defect may have been present for some time before the appearance of the cataract but, if subtle, may not have been evident. However, the presence of the cataract may have decreased the sensitivity of the eye and made the visual defect more prominent. Our concern with this

Table 1: Consensus primer sequences for human papillomavirus DNA detection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primer</th>
<th>Sequence* (5'-3')</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MY09</td>
<td>CCMCAAGGGWCAATAAYAAATGG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MY11</td>
<td>CGTCMRAKKGAWACTAGTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1C1</td>
<td>CGTAAAGCTTCTTCCCTATTITTT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1C2</td>
<td>TACCCTAATTACCTACGTATG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5P5</td>
<td>TGGTGAGTACGTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5P6</td>
<td>GAAAAATAATCTGAATCA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


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References


Material and methods

Samples were obtained from consecutive patients treated at the ophthalmological clinic of the Taipei Veterans General Hospital. Medical and ophthalmologic histories were recorded for each patient, a slit lamp microscope examination was performed, and photographs were photographed before surgery. In each case, a specimen of adjacent clinically normal conjunctival tissue (from the 12 o’clock position of the corneconjunctival limbus) was obtained. Immediately after surgery, tissue specimens (pterygia, pingueculae, or conjunctival tissue) were stored at –70°C.

DNA preparation

The DNA from specimens was isolated as described previously. Briefly, the lysis buffer (10 mM TRIS-HCL, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, pH 7.9; 0.5% SDS) and the protease K (100 µg/ml) were added to the specimens and incubated overnight at 37°C. The standard phenol-chloroform extraction and the ethanol precipitation were used for DNA purification and the pelleted DNA was suspended in 50–100 µl of tridistillated sterile water. To determine the quality and quantity of the isolated DNA, each pelleted DNA sample was analysed by electrophoresis on 1% agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide and viewed spectrophotometrically.

PCR analysis for HPV

Each amplification reaction was carried out in a total volume of 20 µl overlaid with one drop of mineral oil and contained 10 mM TRIS-HCL (pH 8.3), 50 mM KCL, 0.25 U Taq DNA-polymerase (Perkin-Elmer), and 100–200 ng DNA. The concentration of dNTPs and MgCl2 varied with each set of primers. Each PCR was carried out in DNA thermal cycler (Perkin-Elmer Cetus DNA Thermal Cycler 480) with the first denaturation step at 92°C for 4 minutes and the final extension step at 72°C for 15 minutes. The conditions and the number of denaturation and annealing- extension cycles were different for each set of primers.

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<td>TACCCTAATTACCTACGTATG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5P5</td>
<td>TGGTGAGTACGTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5P6</td>
<td>GAAAAATAATCTGAATCA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To control the quality of the isolated DNA internally, the 268 bp sequence of β globulin gene was amplified using PC04 (5′-CAACTTCATCCACGTTCACC3′) and GH20 (5′GAAGAGCCAAGGACAGG-3′) primers in the multiplex PCR with the MY, LC, or GP primers. DNA samples extracted from cell cultures infected with HPV were used as a positive control. Each PCR product was analysed by electrophoresis on 2% agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide.

PCR with MY09 and MY11 consensus primers

The PCR with MY09/MY11 was performed as described previously. The PCR mixture was complemented with 2.5 mM MgCl2, 0.1 mM of each dNTP, 0.5 µM MY09 and MY11 primers (Table 1) and 0.3 µM PC04 and GH 20 primers. The DNA amplification was carried out during 30 cycles that included denaturation at 92°C for 30 seconds, annealing at 53°C for 30 seconds, and primer extension at 72°C for 30 seconds.

PCR with L1C1, L1C2-1 consensus primers

The PCR with L1C1/L1C2-1 was performed as described previously. The PCR mixture was complemented with 2.5 mM MgCl2, 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 0.5 µM L1C1, and 0.25 µM L1C1–1 primers (Table 1). The DNA amplification was carried out during 30 cycles that included denaturation at 92°C for 30 seconds, annealing at 53°C for 30 seconds, and primer extension at 72°C for 30 seconds.

PCR with GP5, GP6 consensus primers

The PCR with GP5/GP6 was performed as described previously. The PCR mixture was complemented with 2.5 mM MgCl2, 0.05 mM of each dNTP, 0.5 µM GP5 and GP6 primers (Table 1) and 0.3 µM PC04 and GH 20 primers. The DNA amplification was carried out during 40 cycles that included denaturation at 94°C for 30 seconds, annealing at 45°C for 30 seconds, and primer extension at 72°C for 30 seconds.

Table 2  Characteristics of patients with pterygia and pinguecula

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pterygium</th>
<th>Pinguecula</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients (M/F)</td>
<td>65 [40/25]</td>
<td>23 [15/8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years, mean (SE))</td>
<td>63.3 [5.9] (range 55.5–82.3)</td>
<td>58.3 [7.4] (range 44.4–71.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication for conjunctivitis (%)</td>
<td>20 (30.8)</td>
<td>3 (13.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of lesion (years, mean (SE))</td>
<td>9.8 [3.7] (range 5.5–21.5)</td>
<td>18.1 [9.7] (range 10.0–28.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis history (%)</td>
<td>24 (36.9)</td>
<td>2 (8.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

The specimens included 65 conjunctival pterygia, 23 pingueculae, and 88 normal conjunctivae. Characteristics of patients are shown in Table 2. We were unable to detect any HPV DNA fragments in the 23 specimens of pingueculae, 65 specimens of pterygia, and 88 specimens of normal conjunctiva tested.

Comment

It has been proved that HPV possesses oncogenic potential and contributes to the development of various preneoplastic and neoplastic conditions. DNA of many types of HPV, particularly types 6 and 11, has been detected in papillomas, dysplasia, and cancers observed on the eyelids, lacrimal outflow tract, conjunctiva, and cornea. In this study, three sets of consensus primers, MY, LC, and GP, were used; we were unable to detect HPV in any pterygium, pinguecula, or normal conjunctival specimen from Chinese patients in Taiwan, where the prevalence of pterygia is high.

Three studies have addressed the presence of HPV DNA in conjunctiva and all used PCR amplification with a single primer (Table 3). These reports demonstrated big differences in frequencies, from 0% to 100%, and variety of HPV types (type 6, 11, 16, 18) that could be possibly explained by the different primers used, the absence of adequate controls, small sample size (10–50 specimens), and possible different frequencies of HPV infection in geographically distant populations. Confirmatory larger studies in different geographic populations using more efficient primer(s) are needed to clarify the relation between HPV infection and pterygium formation. The similar controversy occurred in the detection HPV DNA of malignant epithelial neoplasms of conjunctiva but not squamous cell papilloma of conjunctiva. By reviewing the published data of previous reports, HPV positive rates in conjunctival papilloma specimens were quite consistent, from 44–75% and most of the HPV types were type 6 and 1 that were classified as low risk HPV genotypes. But in the case of malignant epithelial neoplasms of conjunctiva, the frequencies of HPV detection varies from 0–100% and both low risk, HPV-6 and HPV-11, and high risk, HPV-16 and HPV-18, groups were found by various molecular techniques.

Owing to different populations studied and the absence of a gold standard HPV detection technique and adequate controls in most studies published to date, there are marked variations in the obtained HPV prevalence rates in pterygium. Therefore, HPV probably does not act alone in the development of pterygium and the exact role of HPV in the pathogenesis of pterygium remains unclear. The lack of HPV DNA in pterygium in this study may indicate either the HPV is not associated with pterygium formation or that the technique was not adequate for demonstration of such an association. Based on our data, we suggest that HPV is not a required cofactor in the development of pterygia.

Grant support: none.

References

Factor V Leiden mutation does not correlate with retinal vascular occlusion in white patients with Behçet’s disease

The factor V Leiden (FV Leiden) mutation causes resistance to activated protein C by substituting the Glu residue with arginine at the cleavage site for activated protein C. The factor V Leiden (FV Leiden) mutation does not affect proteins involved in the coagulation cascade.

In this disease, recurrent retinal vein occlusion probably due to a combination of retinal vasculitis and thrombus formation. Thrombosis in Behçet’s disease carries a poor ocular and systemic prognosis, so the presence of an identifiable and significant risk factor could be an indicator for anti-inflammatory treatment.

Two recent studies have implicated FV Leiden in the pathogenesis of thrombosis in Turkish patients with Behçet’s disease. In one study, 30% of patients with Behçet’s disease complicated by thrombosis were heterozygous or homozygous for factor V Leiden compared to 5.9% of factor V Leiden negative patients. In the second study, factor V Leiden was detected in 37.5% of patients with Behçet’s disease and a thrombotic history, compared to 9.4% of non-thrombotic patients. We have previously shown in a study of 106 Middle Eastern patients with Behçet’s disease and 120 racially matched controls that the prevalence of factor V Leiden was significantly higher among patients with ocular inflammation (odds ratio 1.67) and was even more prevalent in patients who had developed retinal vascular occlusive disease (odds ratio 2.60).

In this current study we analysed the association between factor V Leiden and clinical features of Behçet’s disease in white patients from the United Kingdom. The results show that, unlike Middle Eastern Behçet’s disease patients, factor V Leiden was not associated with Behçet’s disease in UK patients.

Patients
DNA samples from 53 white patients with Behçet’s disease were collected from individuals attending the Behçet’s disease clinic at the Medical Eye Unit, St Thomas’ Hospital, London. All patients fulfilled the international criteria for Behçet’s disease. Middle Eastern and Afro-Caribbean patients were excluded from this study. A total of 150 white controls from the London area were provided from our DNA bank. Patients’ clinical details were recorded following full systemic and ocular examination, the diagnosis of retinal vein occlusion being recorded following fluorescein angiography.

Factor V Leiden analysis
HLA typing and detection of the FV Leiden mutation was performed using PCR-SSP as previously described. The results were analysed by generating two by two contingency tables and statistical analysis was performed using χ² test.

Results
Fifty three patients (28 males, 25 female) were analysed; 74% (n=39) had ocular disease, 11 had no ocular disease, and for three patients the ocular disease status was unknown. Of those patients with ocular disease, 54% (21/39) had retinal vein occlusion.

Twenty two of 53 (42%) were HLA-B*51 of whom 3/22 (14%) were B*5108, the remainder being B*5101 (Table 1).

Only 2/53 (3.8%) patients in this cohort of patients with Behçet’s disease were heterozygous for the FV Leiden mutation (Table 1). Both patients were male, and had ocular disease, however only one of these individuals had evidence of retinal occlusion.

Comment
The factor V Leiden mutation has been linked with ocular disease in Middle Eastern patients with Behçet’s disease, in particular those with proved retinal venous thrombosis. The current data on UK patients with Behçet’s disease do not show a similar association. The prevalence of FV Leiden in the patient group was no different from the control group. Moreover, while both patients positive for FV Leiden had ocular disease this is against a background of a high level of eye disease in this group.

There are several possibilities that could explain the difference between the two groups. Firstly, the presence of FV Leiden in the Middle Eastern population was particularly high (17%) and this may have accounted for the functional role of this molecule in retinal venous thrombosis in this population. By comparison, the low prevalence of the mutation in white people suggests that much larger numbers of Behçet’s disease patients will need to be tested to identify any possible association. This has been supported by studies on other European patients with Behçet’s disease where FV Leiden was not identified as a risk factor for systemic venous thrombosis. Moreover, in our previous study, we identified several patients who were homozygous for FV Leiden mutation and were clinically blind. In a population with such a high prevalence of the mutation, homozygosity will be more common and may have biased the data in favour of an association between FV Leiden and severity of ocular disease in the patient group.

Secondly, recent studies in relatives of individuals with venous thrombosis have shown that the presence of FV Leiden adds only a threefold risk of thromboembolism. Over half of these events were linked to other risk factors such as pregnancy, surgery, or oral contraceptives. This would suggest that in the general white population genetic mutations affecting proteins involved in the coagulation cascade might only be associated with thrombosis in individuals with concurrent risk factors.

Thirdly, population specific phenotypic effects have been described for other gene polymorphisms. In a worldwide survey of HIV+ and HIV individuals, a particular haplotype of the RANTES gene was associated with increased risk of acquiring HIV-1, and accelerated disease progression, in European Americans, but not African-Americans. A second RANTES haplotype was associated with delayed progression of disease in Japanese
patients, but not in other ethnic groups of patients, probably because this haplotype is rarely found in non-Far East Asians. There are several other factor V gene polymorphisms that may be involved in white patients and these could be an area for future study.

These results suggest that inter-individual and inter-population specific genotypes are associated with disease although the phenotypic outcome remains the same. Therefore gene polymorphisms that associate with disease in one population cannot be regarded as associating with the disease in different ethnic groups. It may not be possible to identify genes involved in severity of a complex disease such as Behçet’s disease, which will hold across different patient populations.

Y Chen, M R Stanford, G R Wallace
Department of Ophthalmology, King’s College, London SE1 7EH, UK

R W Vaughan, E Kondeatis
Department of Tissue Typing, King’s College, London SE1 7EH, UK

F Fortune
Department of Oral Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Correspondence to: Dr Graham Wallace, Academic Unit of Ophthalmology, University of Birmingham, City Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham B18 7QU, UK. g.r.wallace@bham.ac.uk

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References


Localised corneal amyloidosis associated with herpetic keratitis

Amyloid diseases are secondary protein structure diseases in which insoluble protein fibrils accumulate extracellularly. Twenty different types of fibrils have been described in human amyloidosis, each with a different clinical picture. Amyloidosis can be generalised, affecting multiple organ systems, or localised and can affect almost any organ of the body. In the eye amyloid is the material commonly seen in lattice corneal dystrophy. Cases of localised corneal amyloidosis have been reported in literature but are quite rare.1-5 We report a case of localised corneal amyloidosis presenting as a large raised gelatinous vascularised lesion in a patient with long standing herpetic keratitis.

Case report

A fit and healthy 34 year old woman was a tertiary referral to the corneal clinic with a long standing history of a lesion on her right cornea. The initial presentation as a teenager was of a red sore right eye with a corneal ulcer that was treated as a bacterial ulcer for a few years and later on as recurrent herpetic keratouveitis. She had had numerous intermittent courses of combined topical antivirals and steroids with resolution of symptoms. Over the past 2 years she was noted to develop a raised vascularised lesion over the right cornea, which gave a constant foreign body sensation and occasional episodes of pain. It was the appearance of the lesion and the discomfort rather than the reduced visual acuity, which prompted her to seek treatment. On presentation in the clinic she had a visual acuity of 6/36 right (6/24 with pinhole) and 6/6 left eye. Anterior segment examination showed a large, raised, gelatinous, slightly nodular, vascularised lesion on the right cornea (Fig 1). The rest of the anterior segment examination was normal. Ocular adnexae did not show any signs of chronic lid disease. The corneal sensation was intact. A superficial keratectomy was performed under general anaesthesia to excise the lesion. Histopathological examination of the specimen revealed a diagnosis of amyloidosis (Fig 2).

Comment

Amyloidosis can be either primary or secondary, both of which can be further classified into systemic and local disease. Systemic primary amyloidosis can affect various ocular structures presenting as papules or purpura on the lids, conjunctival deposits, external ophthalmoplegia, vitreous opacities, and glaucoma. Secondary systemic amyloidosis rarely affects the eye, although a case of conjunctival amyloidosis has been reported in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis.6

Stafford and Fine, for the first time in 1966, reported a case of corneal amyloidosis in a young girl with ocular complications of retinopathy of prematurity.7 Primary familial amyloidosis, which presents as nodular white subepithelial protuberances in the central cornea, has been postulated to be autosomal recessive.1 In secondary localised corneal amyloidosis, the material has been suggested as a result of chronic inflammation and irritation from scarred lids from trachoma, trichiasis, or long standing corneal scars.1,2,5 To the best of our knowledge its association with herpetic keratitis has not been reported.

Macpherson et al retrospectively examined 200 specimens of corneas removed for various reasons specifically for amyloid deposits and found it present in seven cases (3.5%).1 It has been proposed that the basal cells of the corneal epithelium are responsible for the synthesis of amyloid,7 although other sources have been also proposed.7

D Tejwani, A Azuara-Blanco
Department of Ophthalmology Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Grampian University Hospitals, UK

J MacKenzie
Department of Pathology

Correspondence to: Augusta Azuara-Blanco, The Eye Clinic, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen AB25 2ZN, UK. aazuara@aoil.co.uk

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References


Bilateral macular staphylomas in a patient with cone dystrophy

A posterior staphyloma is characterised by scleral ectasia and is pathognomonic for pathological myopia.1-3 Posterior staphylomas are classified into five types based on the anatomical location.1 Type 1 staphylomas extend from the nasal border of the optic nerve into the macular region and are the most frequent staphyloma seen in myopes.1 Type 2 staphylomas are centred on the macula while type 3 staphylomas are centred on the optic disc.4

Figure 1 Clinical appearance of the lesion on presentation. Note the gelatinous appearance and the marked vascularisation.

Figure 2 Photomicrograph of a Congo red stained section of the lesion showing amyloid in the corneal stroma.
A 32 year old white woman presented to the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, Baltimore, MD, for a second opinion. She reported a history of progressively worsening vision since childhood and was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy at age 18 by an outside ophthalmologist. She experienced photophobia both indoors and outdoors. She denied recent changes in her vision. Past ocular history was otherwise significant for a remote history of corneal abrasion in the right eye. Past medical history and family history were non-contributory.

On ophthalmological examination, her uncorrected visual acuity was 20/200-2 in the right eye and 20/200-1 in the left eye. Retinoscopic reflex and refraction were variable and significant for mild myopia. Refraction did not improve her vision. There was no relative afferent pupillary defect and extraocular movements were normal. There was no evidence of nystagmus. Slit lamp biomicroscopy of the anterior segment was unremarkable. Dilated fundus examination showed a tilted optic nerve head in each eye. There were bilateral macular retinal pigment epithelial changes consisting of a ring of hypopigmentation surrounding an area of mildly increased pigmentation centrally (Fig 1). The retinal vessels in each eye appeared to dive posteriorly into staphylomas (Fig 1). The staphylomas were centred around the macula (type 2 staphyloma).

Disc without macular extension. Type 4 staphylomas are located nasal to the optic disc and type 5 staphylomas develop inferior to the optic disc. Staphylomas can be associated with multiple complications including retinal pigment epithelial atrophy, lacquer cracks, retinal and subretinal haemorrhages, and choroidal neovascularisation.

This report describes a patient with undiagnosed, bilateral type 2 macular staphylomas compounded by cone dystrophy. To the best of our knowledge, this is a novel association not reported in the literature and with potential therapeutic implications.

Case report

A 32 year old white woman presented to the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, Baltimore, MD, for a second opinion. She reported having progressively worsening vision since childhood and was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy at age 18 by an outside ophthalmologist. She experienced photophobia both indoors and outdoors. She denied recent changes in her vision. Past ocular history was otherwise significant for a remote history of corneal abrasion in the right eye. Past medical history and family history were non-contributory.

On ophthalmological examination, her uncorrected visual acuity was 20/200-2 in the right eye and 20/200-1 in the left eye. Retinoscopic reflex and refraction were variable and significant for mild myopia. Refraction did not improve her vision. There was no relative afferent pupillary defect and extraocular movements were normal. There was no evidence of nystagmus. Slit lamp biomicroscopy of the anterior segment was unremarkable. Dilated fundus examination showed a tilted optic nerve head in each eye. There were bilateral macular retinal pigment epithelial changes consisting of a ring of hypopigmentation surrounding an area of mildly increased pigmentation centrally (Fig 1). The retinal vessels in each eye appeared to dive posteriorly into staphylomas (Fig 1). The staphylomas were centred around the macula in each eye. The peripheral retina in each eye was otherwise normal.

Fluorescein angiography demonstrated mottled hyperfluorescence without leakage corresponding to the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) changes (data not shown). Goldmann visual fields were remarkable for central scotomas in both eyes with peripheral isoptres full to II-4 stimulus in the right eye and I-4 stimulus in the left eye (Fig 2). A B-scan showed bilateral staphylomas with macular involvement (Fig 3). On electoretinography, photopic responses were markedly reduced. The dim scotopic responses were 90% of normal in the right eye and 97% of normal in the left eye. There were markedly reduced photopic flash and flicker responses, with a questionable response of 10% of the normal amplitude. Pelli-Robson contrast sensitivity testing was depressed at 1.2 log units in a dim environment (normal = 1.65). D15 colour testing detected four major and three minor errors in the right eye, and five major and two minor errors in the left eye. A therapeutic red tinted contact lens was prescribed to eliminate the photophobia and aversion to light due to cone dystrophy, and thereby to reduce the level of visual dysfunction. After 1 month of wear, the patient reported being a lot more comfortable in bright surroundings. She did not have to squint as much as before using these lenses, was able to sustain prolonged eye contact with other individuals, had improved face recognition and demonstrated improved posture. Visual acuity was 20/125 in each eye tested separately and 20/80-2 when both eyes were tested together.

Comment

In summary, we have described a patient whose findings are consistent with a diagnosis of cone dystrophy compounded by bilateral macular staphylomas. We believe that this does not represent congenital achromatopsia given the absence of nystagmus and the history of progressively worsening vision. Although there is a report of familial cone dystrophy with bilateral macular colobomata, we are unaware of a case of bilateral macular staphylomas associated with cone dystrophy. To our knowledge, this case represents a previously unreported association of cone dystrophy with macular staphylomas. Awareness of this association will hopefully contribute to proper diagnosis as this finding had presumably been missed in previous ophthalmological examinations.

Figure 1  [A] and [B] Bilateral macular staphylomas in a patient with cone dystrophy. There are macular retinal pigment epithelial changes consistent with cone dystrophy. The retinal vessels in both eyes appear to dive posteriorly into staphylomas that are centred around the macula (type 2 staphyloma).

Figure 2  [A] and [B] Goldmann visual fields in both eyes demonstrate central scotomas with peripheral isoptres full to II-4 stimulus in the right eye (bottom right) and I-4 stimulus in the left eye (bottom left).

Figure 3  [A] Horizontal B-scan ultrasound of the right eye. The depth and width of the macular staphyloma is 1.3 mm and 4.6 mm respectively. [B] Horizontal B-scan ultrasound of the left eye. The depth and width of the macular staphyloma is 1.0 mm and 4.2 mm respectively.
Given the significant association of macular staphylomas with numerous complications listed above, especially the risk for choroidal neovascularisation and haemorrhage, such patients should receive counselling regarding its symptoms and receive periodic comprehensive ophthalmological examinations.

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R S Apte, J S Sunness
The Retinal Vascular Center, The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

R S Apte, B G Goldstein
The Vitreous Division
W L Park, J S Sunness
Lions Vision Center

R Z Roden, M J Elman
Elman Retina Group, PA, Baltimore, MD, USA

Correspondence to: Janet S Sunness, MD, The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 550 N Broadway, 6th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA; jsunness@jhmi.edu

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References:

Bloody tears, or haemolacria, are an occasional feature of hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia, and tumours of the lacrimal apparatus. In the emergency department, however, they are more commonly encountered accompanying epistaxis. To date, Medline lists only one single case report of haemolacria in this context, and the photograph presented here may well be the first of the phenomenon.

Its anatomical basis lies in the intimate connection of nose and eye via the lacrimal apparatus. An increase in pressure within the nasal cavity during epistaxis—for example, by pinching or blowing the nose, can cause retrograde flow of blood through the system and thus lead to bloody tears emerging from the ipsilateral eye.

As our patient had longstanding perforation of both tympanic membranes, the blood in her nose was also able to travel retrograde via the auditory tube and middle ear into the external auditory canal. This led to the additional bleeding from the right ear.

Bleeding was readily controlled by nasal sponge tamponade. The patient made an uneventful recovery.

M F Wiese
Department of Emergency Medicine, King’s College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS, UK; wiese@doctors.org.uk

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Haemorrhagic toxoplasmic retinochoroiditis: description of an unusual clinical presentation

Toxoplasmic retinochoroiditis (TRC) is an infectious disease caused by the protozoan Toxoplasma gondii. This infection affects many organs including the eyes. Most of the time ocular involvement occurs after a transplacental transmission, throughout pregnancy, but the infection can also be acquired. In immunocompetent patients, TRC is the most common cause of infection affecting the posterior segment. Clinically, the lesion appears as a white focal necrosis involving the full thickness of the retina, at the margin of an old pigmented chorioroidal scar. A vitreous inflammation is usually present and occasionally vascularity is observed.

We report the case of a healthy patient who developed a unilateral haemorrhagic retinochoroiditis (RC). The investigations performed were positive for a TRC.

Case report
A 43 year old African man was referred with a 10 day history of a painless progressive visual loss affecting the left eye. No other ophthalmological or systemic complaints were present. His past medical history was unremarkable.

Ophthalmological examination disclosed a vision of 20/20 in the right eye without correction and in the left eye the best visual acuity was 20/200. Anterior segment examination was normal in the right eye but revealed a mild inflammation in the left.

Intraocular pressure was within the normal limits in both eyes. Left eye fundus examination showed a vitreous inflammation (cells: + +) and a whitish retinochoroidal lesion surrounded by a large preretal haemorrhage. Hard exudates were present in the macular area as well as a retinal oedema (Fig 1).

Investigations revealed an erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 6 mm in the first hour (reference range 1–12), and a normal white blood count. Serological testing for toxoplasmosis gave negative results for IgM but IgG titres were 40 IU/ml (reference range >3). Serology tests for Borrelia burgdorferi, Treponema pallidum, and HIV were normal. An acute infection of the retina was suspected and we decided to perform an anterior chamber tap. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (toxoplasmosis, CMV, HSV, VZV) gave negative results, but the Goldmann-Witmer coefficient was 13.64 (reference range <4), revealing a local production of anti-toxoplasmonic immunoglobulins. Tests for sarcoidosis and for connective tissue disorders were negative. Immunoglobulin electrophoresis, quantitative immunoglobulin levels, CD4-CD8 lymphocyte count, C3-C4 and CH50 examination were within the normal range. PPD skin test was just positive (7 mm). Chest x ray was normal.

Based on these findings, a TRC was diagnosed. The patient was treated with sulphadiazine (4 × 1 g/day), pyrimethamine (2 × 25 mg/day) and folic acid, during 6 weeks. Topical steroids and mydriatic drops were also prescribed. Prednisone (1 mg/kg) was introduced, at tapering doses, during the treatment.

After 3 months, visual acuity returned to 20/20 without a correction in the left eye. Anterior segment examination was normal. Left eye posterior segment examination disclosed a regression of the haemorrhages and a white chorioretinal scar with hard exudates located around the fovea. Kyrieleiss’s plaque were also observed along the inferior papillary arterial vessel (Fig 2).

The patient was followed during 2 years and no reactivation of the RC was observed. Moreover, tests to exclude an immune disease were still within the normal limits (HIV, immunoglobulin electrophoresis, quantitative immunoglobulin levels, PPD skin test, CD4-CD8 lymphocytes count, C3-C4, and CH50).

Comment
The most classic clinical presentation of an active toxoplasmic lesion is that of a whitish and oedematous necrotising RC close to an old pigmented scar. A severe vitreous

Figure 1

Fundus of the left eye. Presence of an oedematous retinochoroidal lesion surrounded by a large preretal haemorrhage. Hard exudates are observed in the macular area.

Figure 1

Right sided haemolacna and bloody otorrhoea in the context of epistaxis. Photograph reproduced with the consent of the patient.
inflammatory reaction is usually associated, appearing as a “headlight in the fog.” Lesions can occur anywhere in the posterior segment but most of the time, they are located in the macular area, affecting one or both eyes. Associated findings include the presence of an inflammatory sheathing of retinal vessels.\(^1\)

However, a variety of clinical presentations have been reported in the past; Friedmann et al\(^3\) described the presence grey-white fine punctuate lesions affecting the deep retina with a mild vitreous inflammation. Direct optic nerve involvement by the protozoan was described by Zimmermann in 1956.\(^2\) More recently, various clinical aspects of TCR were described in immunocompromised hosts, appearing as diffuse areas of retinal necrosis\(^4\) or as a bilateral military retinitis.\(^5\)

Ocular occlusive vasculitis can be seen in inflammatory diseases including Behget’s syndrome, sarcoidosis and systemic lupus erythematosus, in infectious disorders (syphilis, acute retinal necrosis), and in TCR. Branch artery obstruction has been reported when a vessel passes through an acute TCR,\(^6\) as well as retinal vein occlusion.\(^7\)

The case reported here was diagnostically challenging as the fundus appearance was not characteristic of classic TCR. In fact, haemorrhages are more frequently found in viral infections such as cytomegalovirus retinitis. This feature could be explained by damage to the vascular wall passing through the RC, without signs of a vascular obstruction.

This case demonstrates the importance of including toxoplasmosis in the differential diagnosis of unilateral haemorrhagic RC in immunocompetent patients.

E Baglivo, A B Safran
Clinique d’Ophthalmologie, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, Rue Alcide-Jentzer, 22-CH, 05 Geneva, Switzerland

Correspondence to: Edoardo Baglivo, MD, Clinique d’Ophthalmologie, rue Alcide-Jentzer, 22-CH 1205 Geneva, Switzerland; Edoardo.Baglivo@hcuge.ch

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References


**Topical dorzolamide and metabolic acidosis in a neonate**

We describe a neonate with bilateral Peter’s anomaly who became unwell and developed a metabolic acidosis after commencing topical dorzolamide. He was fully investigated to exclude other causes of acidosis, and subsequently improved on discontinuation of topical treatment. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no reports of topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitors causing metabolic acidosis in children or adults.

A 5 day old boy was referred to a tertiary paediatric ophthalmology unit with bilateral corneal opacities for consideration of penetrating keratoplasty. He had a normal Apgar score at delivery at 35 weeks’ gestation and weight 2.3 kg. In addition, he had full screening investigations including blood gases, abdominal ultrasound, and DMSA scans because of a prenatal history of intrauterine growth retardation with suspicion of a single kidney. Ocular examination revealed total left ocular hypertension with a small opacity of the right cornea faintly visible. Intraocular pressures measured were normal but since digital pressure was proven to be unacceptable, he was commenced on Trusopt (MSD) eye drops, 3 times daily to both eyes. He was to be reviewed 5 days later, while free of all other treatments, the eye drops were stopped and he showed spontaneous next-day resolution of his acidosis. He symptomatically improved and gained weight over the subsequent few days (Fig 1).

Topical dorzolamide has been shown to cause significant reduction in intraocular pressure (IOP) in children and is well tolerated.\(^8\) Secondary glaucoma is well recognised in cases of Peter’s anomaly and raised IOP is well known to cause corneal clouding.\(^8\) Congenital corneal opacities necessitate urgent treatment in order to reduce amblyopia, and therefore it is essential to exclude glaucoma. Topical Trusopt (MSD) is used routinely at the department of ophthalmology, Great Ormond Street, as it is thought to have lower potential for adverse systemic effects than topical \(\beta\) blockers.

Topical dorzolamide is a potent inhibitor of CA-II and this inhibition decreases the rate of aqueous humour secretion consequently lowering IOP. In the proximal renal tubule CA-II is also required to sustain maximal rates of \(\text{HCO}_3^-\) reabsorption. Significant systemic inhibition of carbonic anhydrase has not been observed and there has been an absence of demonstrable metabolic effects in adults.\(^9\) However, with the oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, acetazolamide, the renal carbonic anhydrase involvement and acidosis have been shown to be proportionally related to the plasma concentration levels of the drug. The dose per kg systemic absorption of topically

![Figure 2](Image 72x594 to 221x740) Fundus of the left eye (3 months after treatment). Regression of the haemorrhages. Presence of a whitish retinochoroidal scar with hard exudates around the fovea. Kyrieleis’s plaques are observed along the inferior papillary arterial vessel.

![Figure 1](Image 72x594 to 221x740) Trend in metabolic acidosis over time.

Seven days following the commencement of Trusopt at his regular paediatric follow up appointment, he was found to be sleepy with poor feeding and poor capillary refill. There was no history of diarrhoea or vomiting. Arterial blood gases revealed a metabolic acidosis with a pH 7.08, \(\text{PaO}_2\) 4.2 kPa, \(\text{PaCO}_2\) 11.3 kPa and bicarbonate 9.3 mmol/l and base excess of –20.2. There were no markers of infection with negative blood, urine, stool, throat, and nasal cultures. Anion gap, serum electrolytes, liver function and urinalysis for \(\text{pH}\), specific gravity, and electrolytes were also unremarkable. Renal ultrasound and DMSA scan showed a normal functioning single right kidney.

As the cause for the metabolic acidosis at this stage was unknown he was given intravenous cefotaxime, flucloxacinill, half correction bicarbonate infusion followed by oral sodium bicarbonate supplements for 3 days. He showed some improvement with treatment; however, he remained significantly acidic and unwell. At routine ophthalmic review 5 days later, while free of all other treatments, the eye drops were stopped and he showed spontaneous next-day resolution of his acidosis. He symptomatically improved and gained weight over the subsequent few days (Fig 1).
administered dorzolamide would be expected to be higher in neonates/infants of lower body weight compared with adults.

Metabolic acidosis with normal anion gap and serum electrolytes in the absence of diarrhoea, as in this case, is more likely to be due to proximal renal tubular bicarbonate loss. Spontaneous improvement of the acidosis on termination of the topical dorzolamide is strongly suggestive of the culpability of dorzolamide. It is unclear as to why this happened, but factors such as prematurity, low birth weight, renal tubular immaturity, and one functioning kidney may have led to poor handling of drug elimination at a higher systemic concentration. Although we feel dorzolamide is a relatively safe topical antihyperensive treatment, this case underlines the need for caution when treating neonates.

S Morris, V Geh, K K Nischal
Department of Ophthalmology, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London WC1N 3JH, UK

S Morris, V Geh, K K Nischal
Visual Science Unit, Institute of Child Health, London, UK

S Sahi, M A S Ahmed
Department of Paediatrics, King George Hospital, Barnley Lane, Ilford, IG3 BY8, UK

Correspondence to: Mr Ken K Nischal, Department of Ophthalmology, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London WC1N 3JH; UK; kkn@binternet.com

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References

Recurrent infectious crystalline keratopathy caused by different organisms in two successive corneal grafts in the same patient

Infectious crystalline keratopathy (ICK) is a rare complication of penetrating keratoplasty characterized by an indolent infectious keratitis in which needle-like, branching crystalline opacities are seen within the corneal stroma, in the absence of appreciable corneal or anterior segment inflammation.1 We report an unusual case of recurrent ICK which occurred in two successive corneal grafts.

Case report
A 63 year old man underwent penetrating keratoplasty for aphakic bullous keratopathy. The immediate postoperative course was uneventful. Topical corticosteroid (dexamethasone 0.1%) was initially given four times daily, then was tapered to twice daily. Seven months after transplantation, visual acuity decreased to counting fingers with no other symptoms. Slit lamp examination showed a focal area of non-supportive branching intrastromal white opacities (Fig 1). Corneal scrapings for diagnostic smears and cultures were performed. Microscopic examination of the smears showed dense groupings of many Gram positive cocci with no inflammatory cells. Cultures grew Streptococcus viridans and were negative for fungi. The patient was treated hourly with two fortified antibiotic eyedrops (aminoglycosides, vancomycin) and topical rifamycin. Topical antibiotic therapy was gradually tapered over 12 months. Topical dexamethasone was withdrawn and topical ciclosporin was used to maintain an immunosuppression. Despite intensive treatment with appropriate antibiotics, ICK increased in size and evolved simultaneously towards absence and acute rejection. The subsequent corneal condition was severe residual scarring of the central cornea with diffuse neovascularisation. A second penetrating keratoplasty was then performed 19 months after the first transplantation. Topical dexamethasone, ciclosporin, and rifamycin were given four times daily. Three months after the second graft, slit lamp examination showed a large central epithelial defect with multiple diffuse white opacities confined to the anterior stroma. These multiple opacities merged into a larger confluent dense opacity near the continuous suture (Fig 2). Cytological studies and cultures of the corneal scrapings were performed. Light microscopy disclosed aggregations of many fungi with no inflammatory cells. Cultures yielded Candida albicans sensitive to amphotericin B and fluconazole. Bacterial cultures were negative. Topical amphotericin B was started every hour, along with oral fluconazole. Corticosteroids were stopped and topical ciclosporin was maintained. Despite intensive treatment, the infectious keratopathy slowly worsened over 6 months and the corneal infiltrates were replaced by scarring and neovascularisation.

Comment
Typically, ICK develops in a corneal graft after long term use of topical corticosteroids. Chronic topical corticosteroids used to prevent graft rejection produces relative immunosuppression allowing infection to develop with little or no inflammation in the cornea. Gram positive cocci, usually Streptococcus viridans, are commonly isolated from ICK lesions, but other bacteria, fungi, and mixed infections have been reported.2 To the best of our knowledge, recurrent ICK has never been reported in two successive corneal grafts and with two different organisms. Appropriate laboratory evaluation is therefore necessary to guide specific antimicrobial therapy. Discontinuation of topical steroids with aggressive antibiotic therapy may suffice, but continued infection, vascularisation, or scar formation may sometimes affect visual acuity and corneal graft survival. In this case, medical treatment failed, despite in vitro susceptibility of micro-organisms to antibiotics and antifungal drugs. Moreover, immunosuppression (that is, corticosteroids, ciclosporin), necessary to prevent graft rejection, worsened the infection and did not prevent the acute rejection process from developing.

In conclusion, this case suggests that local immunosuppression and factors related to the patient ocular surface may be predisposing factors for the development of ICK.

O Touzeau, T Bourcier, V M Borderie, L Larche
Quinze-Vingts National Center of Ophthalmology, Paris, France

Correspondence to: Tristan Bourcier, MD, PhD, Ophthalmology 2, Quinze-Vingts National Center of Ophthalmology, 28 rue de Charenton 75012 Paris, France, bourcier@quinzevingts.fr

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References

www.bjophthalmol.com
Rosai Dorfman disease or sinus histiocytosis with massive lymphadenopathy of the orbit

Sinus histiocytosis with massive lymphadenopathy (SHML) or Rosai Dorfman syndrome is a rare benign proliferative histiocytic disease of unknown origin. It predominantly affects the lymph nodes. The head and neck region usually in association with lymph node involvement, represents one of the most common extranodal areas affected by SHML. The other common extra nodal site is skin. Rarely, there is widespread dissemination with liver, kidney, respiratory organs, orbit, and eyelid involvement. The mean age of onset is 20 years (birth to 74 years).

Case report
A 57 year old woman with a 6 month history of double vision was referred to the Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin. She was found to have proptosis, ptosis, diplopia due to inferior rectus dysfunction, and restriction of elevation of the left eye. Her visual acuity was normal. Relevant investigations showed a high erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) of 44 mm in the first hour, C reactive protein of 1.9 (normal less than 1). Her thyroid function tests, including thyroid microsomal and thyroglobulin antibodies, were normal. The anti-tetacyl choline receptor antibodies were also negative. A computed tomograph (CT) scan of the orbit was performed which showed an extracanal soft tissue mass with well defined margins in the inferomedial part of the left orbit and no separation from inferior and medial rectus. There was no bony erosion and the optic nerve appeared normal. She had an excision biopsy performed through lateral orbitotomy with Wright’s modification.

The tumour was removed within the capsule, it was found to be adherent to the inferior and lateral rectus. Histological examination of the tumour revealed an inflammatory process composed of aggregates of lymphocytes, with reactive lymphoid follicles, plasma cells, and groups of large histiocytes with abundant foamy cytoplasm. The inflammatory process extended around the nerves. There was no vasculitis, areas of coagulative necrosis, or granuloma formation. The large histiocytic cells were characterised by round to oval, vesicular, hypochromatic nuclei with vesicular chromatin and abundant eosinophilic, foamy or clear cytoplasm with poorly defined cell borders. Emperiploes was present. The phagocytosed cells were most often erythrocytes, lymphocytes, and polymorphonuclear leucocytes (Fig 1). Special stains for micro-organisms were negative. Immuno-histochemical stains revealed the presence of diffuse SI08 positivity within the cells. These cells also showed reactivity for the macrophage marker CD68. The diagnosis of Rosai Dorfman disease or SHML was confirmed.

Our patient did not have any lymphadenopathy or any other extranodal involvement. She did not receive any treatment and after 3 years’ follow up there was no sign of recurrence. She still had some residual hypotrophia.

Comment
We report this case to draw attention to this unusual presentation of SHML confined to the orbit without any other extranodal lesions, which to our knowledge is the only the third reported case of this nature. SHML is a rare, benign proliferative histiocytic disease with massive lymphadenopathy. Table 1 lists the causes of histiocytic proliferations in the orbit.

Table 1

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<th>Orbital histiocytic proliferations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary to ruptured cyst or trauma</td>
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<td>Sinus histiocytosis with massive lymphadenopathy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nacrobiotic xanthogranuloma</td>
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<td>Erdheim-Chester disease</td>
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<td>Juvenile and adult xanthogranuloma</td>
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<td>Langherhan’s cell histiocytosis</td>
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<td>Familial haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis</td>
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<td>True histiocytic lymphoma</td>
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In one report of SHML, uveitis with papilloedema was the only presentation and in another report the only site of the lesion was lacrimal sac with the duct but these patients later developed cervical lymphadenopathy. Another case with ocular involvement was reported with uveitis and marginal corneal infiltrates in association with cervical lymphadenopathy. SHML is usually benign, low grade, and self limiting but death has been infrequently attributed to it. The condition has also been occasionally associated with the development of malignant lymphoma. Hodgkin’s and the follicular type of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and SHML have been identified in the same lymph node specimen. SHML may be associated with fever, leucocytosis, elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate, and hypergammaglobulinaemia. Some studies suggest that human herpes virus (HHV-6) may play a part in pathogenesis of SHML. HHV-6 which infects many in childhood and remains latent in host cells can be reactivated by immunodeficiency. Serological evidence of HHV-6 and Epstein-Barr virus infection have also been documented in patients with SHML with their presence in affected tissues as well. SHML is usually self limiting but in some cases there was orbital involvement with compressive optic neuropathy, persistent uveitis with marginal corneal infiltrates, massive lymphadenopathy impairing cervical perfusion, and generalised lymphadenopathy with AA amyloidosis. These cases were treated with chemotherapy and oral steroids, the commonest being cyclophosphamide, vincristine, mercaptopurine, and prednisolone. Treatment causes regression of the tumour and resolution of cervical lymphadenopathy with minimal recurrence. Our patient did not receive any treatment and in the 3 year follow up there was no evidence of recurrence of the disease in the orbit or any sign of sinus histiocytosis elsewhere in the body.

References

The authors wish to correct an error in the article: A Comparison of Perimetric Results with Medmont and Humphrey Perimeters. Br J Ophthalmol 2003;87:690–9. Table 4, row 3, column 1 should read 1 not 2, and row 2, column 4 should read 35 not 34. Table 6, row 3, column 1 should read 24 not 27, and row 4, column 2 should read 27 not 24.

CORRECTION

Helping the blind and visually impaired

The latest issue of Community Eye Health (No 45) discusses help for the blind, with an editorial by Sir John Wall of the Royal National Institute for the Blind on the rights of blind people. For further information
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’s website (www.secondsight.org.uk) or by contacting Dr Lucy Mathen (lucymathen@yahoo.com).

The British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society
The British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society (BRPS) was formed in 1975 to bring together people with retinitis pigmentosa and their families. The principle aims of BRPS are to raise funds to support the programme of medical research into an eventual cure for this hereditary disease, and through the BRPS welfare service, help members and their families cope with the everyday concerns caused by retinitis pigmentosa. Part of the welfare service is the telephone help line (+44 (0)1803 524238; email: k@eyeconditions.org.uk; website: www.eyeconditions.org.uk).

Elimination of avoidable blindness
The 56th World Health Assembly (WHA) considered the report on the elimination of avoidable blindness (doc A56/26) and urged Member States and international organisations to support the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness by setting up a national Vision 2020 plan by 2005; (2) Establish a national coordinating committee for Vision 2020, or a national blindness prevention committee to help implement the plan; (3) Implement the plan by 2007; (4) Include the principle of elimination of avoidable blindness in national Vision 2020 plan by 2005; (2) Establish a national Vision 2020 plan by 2005; (3) Implement the plan by 2007; (4) Include the principle of elimination of avoidable blindness in national Vision 2020 plan by 2005; (5) To support the mobilisation of resources for eliminating avoidable blindness. The WHA also urged the Director-General to establish a national coordinating committee to help implement the plan.

The 5th International Symposium on Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ISOPT)
The 5th International Symposium on Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ISOPT) will take place 11–14 March 2004, in Monte Carlo, Monaco. Please visit our website for details of the scientific programme, registration, and accommodation. To receive a copy of the Call for Abstracts and registration brochure please submit your full mailing details to http://www.kenes.com/isopt/interest.htm.

XVth Meeting of the International Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
The XVth Meeting of the International Neuro-Ophthalmology Society will take place 18–22 July 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland. Further details: Prof. A Safran, University Hospital Geneva, c/o SYMPORG SA, Geneva (fax: +41 22 613 6222; email: info@sympor.ch; website: www.sympor.ch).