Specular microscopic findings of corneal deposits in patients with Bietti's crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy

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Numerous subretinal hypopigmented tracks with small haemorrhages were noted in the superior retina, and perivascular haemorrhages were observed around the inferior branch of the central retinal vein (Fig 2). Fluorescein angiography showed numerous hyperfluorescent tracks without dye leakage. The patient’s blood test revealed a slightly elevated white blood cell count (10 200 ×10³/l; normal <9000) and elevated IgE in the serum (680 U/ml; normal <250).

On the following day pars plana vitrectomy was performed and the worm was found partially migrated into the subretinal space of the macula. The worm was aspirated successfully through a 20 gauge silicone tipped needle and submitted for parasitological study; however, it was lost during transportation to a different laboratory. Parasitological study of the patient’s serum detected an antibody to *Dirofilaria*. Six months after surgery, the patient’s visual acuity was still 20/50. Ophthalmoscopically, the hypopigmented tracks had faded, and mildly irregular pigment was observed at the deep retina in the macular lesion. Cone and rod electroretinograms to full field stimuli were normal bilaterally.

COMMENT

Our patient owned two dogs, and her ocular findings could be differentiated from toxocariasis, in which only larvae of *Toxocara canis* can infect humans. The length of the *Toxocara* larva is about 400 µm, and grows no longer. Although no direct microscopic evidence of *Dirofilaria* infection was obtained in our patient, a positive antibody to *Dirofilaria* in the serum indicated its infection. There have been many reports of intraocular filariasis; however, the filariae were removed and identified in only six of 56 cases reviewed by Beaver in 1974.

Acanthamoeba keratitis occurring with daily disposable contact lens wear

EDITOR,—Up to 92% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis occur in contact lens users of all types. Failure to disinfect soft contact lenses and the use of chlorine disinfection systems are major factors accounting for the increase in cases of acanthamoeba keratitis.

We report a case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurring in a daily disposable contact lens wearer. We believe this is the first such reported case.

CASE REPORT

A healthy 21 year old woman, who had been wearing daily disposable contact lenses for 1 year, wore her lenses for 4 hours on 1 day and then stored the lenses in preserved saline solution overnight in a new contact lens case. She rewore the lenses for a further 3 hours the following day. She reports that this was the first time that she had done this. She then developed a painful left eye. This was initially treated as conjunctivitis by her general practitioner and local accident and emergency department. After 2 weeks her local eye unit suspected acanthamoeba keratitis and performed an epithelial scrape that “revealed amoeba species”. She was then referred to our unit for opinion.

On examination her visual acuity was reduced to 6/18 in the left eye. There was conjunctival injection and a mild scleritis. The
cornea had diffuse punctate staining with linear epithelial and perineural infiltrates (Figs 1 and 2). She had a mild anterior uveitis. Acanthamoeba was strongly suspected. Corneal epithelium was removed for microscopy, culture, and histology. Her contact lens case and solutions were also sent for culture. Acanthamoeba was cultured from both corneal epithelium and lens case, but not the lens solutions. She was treated with topical polychlorhexidine biguanide 0.02% (PHMB) and predniolone 0.3% as well as oral flurbiprofen (Frobem, Knoll Ltd, Nottingham). Six weeks after diagnosis she was asymptomatic with a visual acuity of 6/9. The eye was quiet, though some corneal infiltrates remained.

COMMENT

Acanthamoeba are free living protozoa commonly found in soil and water, including bathroom tap water. 1 Acanthamoeba keratitis is an uncommon but potentially devastating condition. The number of cases diagnosed in the United Kingdom has steadily risen over the past 20 years owing to increased contact lens wear. 2 Radford et al found that daily wear disposable contact lenses were associated with greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba keratitis compared with other lens types and wear systems. 3, 4 Multivariable analysis showed that this was largely attributable to a lack of disinfection, the use of non-sterile saline, and the use of chlorine based disinfection rather than alternative chemical systems. It was concluded that 80% of cases of acanthamoeba keratitis could be prevented by the adequate use of an effective disinfection system. It was felt that the "low care" philosophy of daily wear disposable contact lenses had become "no care" in practice.

Daily disposable contact lenses, in which the lens is discarded after 1 day's wear only, were introduced in 1995. When used properly and discarded after a single day's wear, they do not carry the risks of inadequate lens disinfection, contaminated lens solutions, and storage cases. A case of acanthamoeba keratitis occurring in an extended wear disposable lens wearer has been reported, illustrating that even with the risks of inadequate lens disinfection and contaminated lens cases the infection can occur. 5 However, it is known that contact lens wear increases the susceptibility to keratitis independent of factors relating to disinfection and cleaning.

Our case of acanthamoeba keratitis in a daily disposable lens wearer illustrates that misuse occurs and when it does so inadequate disinfection is almost inevitable leading to greatly increased risk of acanthamoeba infection. Misuse, as in this case, may often be associated with storage in saline or water without disinfection. This has been shown by Radford et al to increase the relative risk of acanthamoeba keratitis to 55.86 (10.3-302) p<0.001. Our case does not, however, indicate the mechanism of infection. It is possible that the infection is unrelated to the lens misuse and could have been acquired from other unrelated sources, such as exposure to contaminated tap water while wearing lenses. However, we would recommend greater education of daily disposable lens wearers on the importance of strict adherence to wearing their lenses for 1 day only and of the risks of misuse of their lenses.

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Clinical course of acute zonal occult outer retinopathy in visual field and multifocal electroretinogram

EDITOR,—Patients with acute zonal occult outer retinopathy (AZOOR) may present with a normal fundus examination and almost normal fluorescein angiography (FA), despite severe loss of visual field and electroretinogram (ERG) abnormalities. 1-3 The lesion defined zones of the retinal receptor cells; however, the cause of the disease remain unclear. 4 There is also no established conclusion about progression of visual field loss. 4 With a multifocal ERG (m-ERG), a large number of retinal locations can be stimulated simultaneously and local responses can be extracted independently in a single recording session. High resolution topographic mapping of retinal function also is possible. A previous report indicates its efficiency in the diagnosis of AZOOR. 5 There are no reports about the clinical course. Thus, using m-ERG and static perimeter (Humphrey 30–2), the alteration of retinal function in a clinical course of a patient with AZOOR was investigated.

CASE REPORT

A healthy 26 year old woman presented to our outpatient clinic complaining of acute onset of visual disturbance in her left eye. Her corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in her right eye, and 20/100 in her left. The pupils were equal and reactive normally. Slit lamp and fundus examination, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging scan, and general examination were normal. HVF 30–2 demonstrated blind spot enlargement breaking out to the inferotemporal periphery in the left eye (Fig 1, top). Full field ERG showed grossly reduced A and B waves in the left eye. The FA showed slight leakage from peripapillary capillaries. Indocyanine green (ICG) angiography showed slight hypofluorescence of the macular area at a late phase.

Analysis of the mean deviation in HVF over the clinical course corresponded with the visual acuity (Fig 1, bottom). In addition, m-ERG (Veris III, Tomey, Nagoya, Japan) was analysed during the clinical course. In this examination, the fundus was divided into four foci and the sum of amplitudes in each group was measured (Fig 2, top). In the left eye, the sum of amplitudes was altered individually but all of them were affected during the clinical course. Only in the inferotemporal area did it correspond with HVF. The values in the right eye were about 5000 µV in each focus. This is almost the same as normal volunteers in our clinic (data not shown).

COMMENT

AZOOR may be precipitated by various retinal disorders and is characterised by rapid visual field loss which cannot be explained by the ophthalmoscopic changes resulting from the initiating disease. 6 The ERG is abnormal, indicating that the field loss is due to retinal dysfunction. 4 The cause of the acute damage to sharply defined zones of the retinal receptor cells in the absence of visible fundus changes in patients with AZOOR is unknown. 4 In some previous reports, an apparent response to corticosteroid therapy suggested that an inflammatory and perhaps an immune reaction may play a part in the disease; however, there is no specific evidence for an immune abnormality. 5 An infectious aetiology could also be the cause of AZOOR.
The findings of AZOOR that we observed in our patient suggest that the retinal recovery assessed by m-ERG was different for the temporal retina and was delayed compared with visual acuity and HVF. Perhaps this delayed retinal recovery reflects a subtle microcirculatory disturbance that cannot be clearly detected by FA or ICG. Slight leakage in FA and slight hypofluorescence on the late phase in ICG would suggest such a microcirculatory disorder.

When better understanding of the aetiology and pathophysiology of AZOOR is available, the clinical response to appropriate therapy may perhaps best be followed by m-ERG.

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Hypotonic maculopathy following pneumatic retinopexy: a UBM study

Editor—Pneumatic retinopexy is a promising surgical alternative in selected cases of retinal detachment.

We report a rare complication, to our knowledge the first ever reported, of this procedure—namely, hypotonic maculopathy, caused by a wound dehiscence on a patient who had previously undergone a standard extracapsular extraction with posterior chamber implant. Ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM) proved to be a valuable adjunct in both the diagnosis and management of this complicated case.

CASE REPORT

A 63 year old white man, complaining of a shadow in his right visual field, was referred to our department in April 1997 for further management. Ocular history was notable for an excellent recovery with the retina totally attached. He maintained a 20/30 visual acuity attached. IOP remained within normal limits until 3 months after the procedure. Cryopexy was applied to the tear and after an anterior chamber paracentesis was performed 0.7 ml of 100% SF6 gas was injected, causing the retina to detach again. A surgical repair of the cataract wound.

He tolerated the procedure well and made an excellent recovery with the retina totally attached. He maintained a 20/30 visual acuity right eye, IOP remained within normal limits until 3 months after. At that time an IOP of 6 mm Hg and a deterioration of visual acuity to 20/70 was noted. Initially this visual loss was attributed to a posterior capsule opacification and a YAG capsulotomy was performed. Between October 1997 and November 1997 he was presented to our unit on three occasions complaining of further deterioration of vision to 20/200, IOPs between 3–5 mm Hg, and a full blown hypotonous maculopathy. After 3 months of hypotony of "unknown origin", a diagnosis was made by a glaucoma specialist using indentation gonioscopy revealing a dehiscence of the cataract wound. A preoperative UBM study confirmed the presence of an internal wound gap, behind the limbus, superotemporally, 3 mm in circumference. Ultrasonically the wound dehiscence was depicted as a narrow slit (Fig 1) with a flat inadvertent bleb above which was not apparent clinically. A surgical repair of the wound was decided upon. Intraoperatively no definite dehiscence could be clinically identified. Balanced salt solution through a 30 gauge needle was repeatedly injected under pressure to the anterior chamber but this failed to localise any suspicious area. At this point, based on the ultrasonic study, two 10-0 nylon interrupted sutures were placed through the sclera parallel to the limbus in the suspicious area. These bites were moderately deep in an attempt to engage the internal flap of the cataract wound.

Two weeks postoperatively, the pressure normalised (IOP 12 mm Hg), maculopathy was reversed, and visual acuity improved to 20/50.

Hypotonic maculopathy is an unusual and, to our knowledge, the first reported complication of this kind after pneumatic retinopexy. We hypothesise that the original cataract wound did not heal properly and the additional cryoprobe manipulation caused the...

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

Figure 2 UBM picture of right eye showing the external part of the dehiscent cataract wound, area between arrows. There is a full blown hypotonous maculopathy in this eye, with VA 20/200.
Bilateral electrical cataract

EDITOR,—Electric trauma is not uncommon in India where majority of the population lives in the rural setting. Few cases of electric cataract have been reported in literature probably because few patients survive the high voltage of current that induces cataract formation. Most patients with electric cataract have no subjective complaints early on but become aware of the reducing visual function several months later.1

CASE REPORT
A 26 year old man complained of gradual and painless diminution of vision in both eyes, right more than left, for the past 2–3 years. There was a history of an overhead high tension electric transmission cable accidentally falling on the patient’s head 4–5 years earlier. This had resulted in immediate burn to the scalp. The patient was visually asymptomatic till about 1 year after the mishap, when he began to notice the gradual fall in vision that had progressed to its present state.

Corrected visual acuity was 20/200 right eye and 20/60 left eye. A 15 × 2.5 cm linear, sagittal scar extending from the frontal to the occipital region of the head was noted. The lids, conjunctiva, cornea, and pupils showed no abnormality in either eye. Fundus examination was unremarkable. Slit lamp examination revealed multiple, mid-peripheral snowflake-like anterior subcapsular lens opacities in both eyes, right greater than left. In the right eye some of these opacities were seen encroaching into the visual axis and additionally a few posterior subcapsular opacities were noticed (Fig 1).

In view of the history of electrical injury and classic location and typical appearance of the lens opacities, a diagnosis of bilateral electric cataract was made. Extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) with posterior chamber intraocular lens implantation was undertaken (Fig 2). The fact that the internal part of the wound was secure (no slit is apparent) despite the wound was gapping even more postoperatively. This finding implies, therefore, that only minimal overall alteration of the wound architecture postoperatively, sufficient to rectify the leak.

We believe that UBM is a valuable adjunct in the management of similar cases by clearly identifying both the presence and exact location of leak. Finally, pneumatic retinopexy should be performed with caution, especially in cases of previously operated eyes with large incision wounds.

ryptony after suturing the wound leak as shown in Figure 2. The fact that hypertony resolved after suturing the wound, indicated that the external part of the wound was secure (no slit is apparent) despite the fact that the internal part of the wound was gapping even more postoperatively. This finding implies, therefore, that only minimal overall alteration of the wound architecture postoperatively, sufficient to rectify the leak.

We believe that UBM is a valuable adjunct in the management of similar cases by clearly identifying both the presence and exact location of leak. Finally, pneumatic retinopexy should be performed with caution, especially in cases of previously operated eyes with large incision wounds.


Monckeberg’s sclerosis in temporal artery biopsy specimens

EDITOR,—Temporal artery biopsies are performed routinely on patients suspected of having giant cell arteritis. Of 131 pathology specimens examined at University of Illinois at Chicago Eye Center from 1975 to 1998, the most common diagnosis was atherosclerosis with myointimal fibrosis (63%) followed by giant cell arteritis (13%). In about 6% of cases we encountered calcific sclerosis confined to the tunica media which was associated with mild tissue disorganisation surrounding the calcific plaque and disruption of the internal elastic lamina (Fig 1).

Monckeberg’s sclerosis as seen in these specimens was first described by Monckeberg in 1903. It commonly affects medium size muscular arteries and is described in femoral, tibial, radial, coronary, cerebral, and visceral arteries.1 However, its association with the temporal artery is uncommon. The infrequent occurrence of this condition in the temporal artery and the presence of a fragmented inter-
nal elastic lamina should not be erroneously interpreted as sequelae of previous arterial inflammation. The pathophysiology of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is still unclear, but it can be induced in animal models by injecting adrenalin, nicotine, parathyroid hormone, and vitamin D. In addition, lumbar sympathectomy has been shown to promote occurrence of Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the lower extremities in humans. Automatic dysfunction from diabetic neuropathy is thought to be responsible for the occurrence of Monckeberg's in diabetic patients. Unlike atherosclerosis, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis is a benign condition and does not cause vascular thrombosis. In conclusion, Monckeberg's arteriosclerosis of the temporal artery may be seen occasionally in the temporal area. It is an interesting histological diagnosis that has little clinical significance but should be recognized in temporal biopsy.

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Letter

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Retinal vascular abnormality in Poland's syndrome

EDITOR—Poland's syndrome is a congenital anomaly first described in 1841 consisting of unilateral hypoplasia or aplasia of the pectoralis major muscle and ipsilateral upper extremity abnormalities which often include ipsilateral syndactyly. Since then a number of associated anomalies have been reported. These include absence of the pectoralis minor muscle, absence or atrophy of ipsilateral ribs two to five, aplasia of the ipsilateral breast or nipple, and simian crease of the affected extremity. Although vascular alterations associated with this syndrome have been described, no involvement of eye vasculature has been reported so far.

CASE REPORT

We examined a 39 year old man previously diagnosed with Poland's syndrome who came to our clinic because he had experienced blurred vision in the right eye for 2 months. Computed axial tomography, arteriography, and abdominal echography revealed absence of the left kidney. There was no history of diabetes or hypertension. The ophthalmological examination of the right eye revealed a visual acuity of 20/50 and a paracentral relative scotoma. The right eye fundus showed pericentral capillary telangiectasis, retinal vascular distortion, moderate pericentral hard exudates, and retinal swelling, all of them more prominent in the temporal perimacular area. Fluorescein angiography clearly showed the vascular abnormalities (Fig 1). The left eye fundus was normal. A diagnosis of juxtafoveal retinal telangiectasis was made.

COMMENT

Juxtafoveal telangiectasis is difficult to detect ophthalmoscopically and therefore can be neglected by routine eye fundus examinations made before the first visual symptoms appear. Unilateral renal agenesis occurs in approximately 1 per 1000 births and can be associated with vascular anomalies.

The aetiology of juxtafoveal telangiectasis is unknown. The patient we examined had retinal vascular malformations that may have originated in the early stages of life. Indeed, the deformed capillaries may function for many years before endothelial decompensation causes retinal swelling. While the exact cause of juxtafoveal retinal telangiectasis is not well known, it has been postulated that the original cause may be a vascular abnormality at the embryonic stages. The vascular abnormalities, mostly of the diseased hemitorax, are reported in this syndrome and our finding of retinal vascular abnormalities in this patient support this hypothesis.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of coexistence of juxtafoveal retinal telangiectasis, renal agenesis, and Poland's syndrome. Although we are not aware of direct evidence reported in the literature indicating any retinal involvement linked to this syndrome, it is plausible that the three anomalies found in this patient may have had common original vascular causative factors. Therefore, we recommend a careful eye fundus examination of patients presenting with this syndrome.

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Bilateral optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost

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

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

CASE REPORT

An asymptomatic 64 year old woman presented with raised intraocular pressure. She maintained good general health, had no significant JNC VI, weal or history, and was not on any medication. Snellen visual acuities were 6/5 both eyes. The intraocular pressures were 28 mm Hg right eye and 26 mm Hg left eye. Ocular examination was otherwise unremarkable with open angles, normal optic nerves, and full Humphrey 24-2 visual fields. She was thus diagnosed as having ocular hypertension and consented to enter a prospective double masked trial comparing some of the intraocular pressure lowering drops. Therapy was commenced with one of the drugs involved in the study and at a 1 month review she reported no problems with the drops. The intraocular pressures had lowered to 16 mm Hg in both eyes and the examination was otherwise unchanged. At her third visit 2 months later, she was again asymptomatic with visual acuities of 6/5 in both eyes and intraocular pressures of 15 mm Hg. However, examination of the optic nerves revealed bilateral oedema which was more prominent in the left eye. There were no signs of uveitis in either eyes, papillary reflexes were normal, coloour vision and Amsler testing were not affected, and the visual fields were full. At this point the code for the trial was broken and it was seen that she had been using latanoprost 0.005% eye drops at night at both eyes over the 3 month period. A neurological consultation failed to find any neurological abnormality and all haematological and biochemical analyses were normal. A computed tomography scan with and without contrast was normal and she was discharged from neurological review. Follow up in the eye clinic revealed no change after 72 hours. The latanoprost was stopped and the disc swelling had largely resolved at 1 week. By 10 weeks
both optic nerves looked normal. Visual acuities were still 6/6 in both eyes and there was no loss of colour vision or visual field. The intraocular pressures had increased to 22 mm Hg in both eyes.

COMMENT
Latanoprost is a prostaglandin F₂α analogue which acts by increasing uveoscleral outflow. Side effects include increased iris pigmentation, hypervascularity and increased eyelash pigmentation, anterior uveitis in patients with complicated glaucoma or in those having had previous incisional surgery, and cystoid macular oedema occurring soon after beginning latanoprost in pseudophakic or aphakic eyes. Ocular hypotony with choroidal effusions and facial rash have also been attributed to latanoprost. To the best of our knowledge, optic disc oedema associated with latanoprost has not previously been described. The mechanism behind this association is unclear. One may not be surprised to see optic nerve swelling in association with signs of posterior uveitis or hypotony but in this case it occurred without any sign of ocular inflammation and the lowest recorded intraocular pressure was 15 mm Hg. It may be feasible that the perfusion to the optic nerve heads via the short posterior ciliary arteries was compromised by a prostaglandin-like action manifesting as disc oedema and that latanoprost acid and prostaglandin F₂α, high concentrations could cause vasoconstriction of bovine ciliary arteries and a similar action cannot be discounted in this case. The rapid resolution of the swelling with seemingly no long term sequelae once latanoprost was stopped would perhaps support this hypothesis.

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Retinal neovascularisation in Goltz syndrome (focal dermal hypoplasia)

EDITOR.—This is the first reported case of Goltz syndrome with documented peripheral retinal non-perfusion and subsequent retinal neovascularisation and vitreous haemorrhage. In the eye this represents solely a mesodermal disturbance compared with the more common cases which present with both mesodermal and neuroectodermal disturbances, such as colobomata or microphthalmia.

CASE REPORT

Goltz syndrome was diagnosed shortly after birth in a girl with linear lesions of atrophic skin following Blaschko’s lines on the trunk and symmetrical syndactyly of the third to fourth fingers and second to third toes. Initial ophthalmic screening revealed no ocular anomalies. When she was aged 5 years, routine ophthalmic review showed a vision of right eye 6/9 and left eye 6/5, with a minor right myopia.

Age 7 years, she complained of a brief episode of photopsia and floaters in the right eye. Vision was right eye 6/20 and left eye 6/6. Examination revealed a right vitreous haemorrhage, telangiectatic vessels temporal to the macula, and temporal equatorial fibrotic vessels and haemorrhage. Fluorescein angiography showed bilateral peripheral retinal non-perfusion and right temporal neovascularisation. This was treated conservatively for 2 years; however, after six bleeds within 3 months indirect retinal photocogulation to the areas of non-perfusion was performed with subsequent new vessel regression within weeks.

COMMENT

Focal dermal hypoplasia is a rare disorder of ectodermal and mesodermal dysplasia originally described by Goltz et al. It is characterised by congenital atrophic skin changes often associated with herniation of the subcutaneous fat; skeletal anomalies, in particular syndactyly, polydactyly, or adactyly as well as scoliosis, kyphosis, spina bifida occulta, rib and vertebral anomalies and dental anomalies, especially hypodontia.

Ocular anomalies occur in 40% of cases. Colobomata have been reported in one third of cases, then less frequently microphthalmia, strabismus, nystagmus, and ectopia lentis. Other reported ocular anomalies include anophthalmia, corneal clouding, aniridia, heterochromia, and optic atrophy. Rarely ectropion and ptosis may occur as well as lid margin or conjunctival papillomatous lesions (histologically angiolipomas). Only one case of cloudy vitreous has been reported. This was in association with microphthalmia, aniridia, and lens subluxation. Retinal sclerosis or hypopigmementation was reported in Goltz’s original case report. No attempt was made to explain these findings. In our case, there was peripheral retinal non-perfusion and temporal retinal telangiectasia with subsequent neovascularisation and vitreous haemorrhage.

The differential diagnosis of retinal vascular anomalies associated with skin lesions includes incontinentia pigmenti (IP) and Cockayne’s syndrome. Although focal skin atrophy may occur in IP, the initial skin lesions are vesicles and bullae which may later become pigmented macules. The skin lesions in Cockayne’s syndrome are pigmented scars due to light sensitivity and trauma. Neither syndrome is associated with digital anomalies.

The genetic anomaly in Goltz syndrome remains to be determined. Most cases are sporadic. It is generally thought to be X-linked dominant with lethality in males, like IP; however, 9% of cases are male. These are proposed to be the result of half chromatid mutations. Deletions in the region of the chromosome 1p32 are a suggested site, though these must be differentiated from the deletions seen in microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS) and that of microphthalmia, dermal aplasia, and sclerocornea (MIDAS), which are now considered to be distinct entities. The wide variation in severity of expression is thought to be due to mosaicism.

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Retinitis scleropertia associated with airbag inflation

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

CASE REPORT

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

At presentation the visual acuity was hand movements in the left eye and 6/6 in the right eye. Examination revealed evidence of swollen eyelids and marked chemosis and subconjunctival haemorrhages on the left, with no bony injury and a full range of eye movements. Anterior segment examination revealed a clear left cornea and a quiet anterior chamber with a microhyphaema. The lens was clear and there was no evidence of cataract. There was no angle recession and the intraocular...
pressure was recorded at less than 4 mm Hg. Fundal examination revealed evidence of a retinal tear although details were obscured by a diffuse vitreous haemorrhage. An ultrasound examination showed a vitreous haemorrhage and large retinal tear but no evidence of a scleral perforation.

An examination under anaesthesia performed the following day confirmed that there was no scleral rupture and indirect ophthalmoscopy confirmed the findings of diffuse vitreous haemorrhage and a retinal tear.

At the 2-week postoperative clinic visit, visual acuity had improved to 6/18. There was 2+ cells in the anterior chamber and the intraocular pressure was 10 mm Hg, and fundal examination was unchanged. In view of the persistent vitreous haemorrhage the patient was listed for routine dialyses, and choroidal ruptures have been reported.

To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of retinitis sclopeteria secondary to airbag inflation. Although airbags have clearly been shown to reduce serious morbidity and mortality associated with road traffic accidents, they are associated with a number of injuries directly attributable to their inflation. Some of these are serious ocular injuries and it is important for ophthalmologists and others involved with trauma cases to be aware of these complications. A full ophthalmic assessment is mandatory in all cases and this should include indentation ophthalmoscopy. A variety of posterior segment injuries have been reported in the literature but this is the first report of retinitis sclopeteria resulting from airbag deployment.

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Figure 1 Airbag injury with retinitis sclopeteria, an intragel haemorrhage, and attached retina.

Figure 1 Specular microscopic findings. (A) Many crystalline deposits are observed at the limbus. (B) Specular microscopic findings re-examined after 1 year. The change of the locations and forms of crystalline deposit from the same vessels can be seen.

COMMENT

Airbags are designed to protect the driver from direct impact from the steering wheel, dashboard, and windscreen. They are designed to inflate in 10 ms in response to sudden deceleration and during deployment, the airbag is propelled out of its storage compartment at speeds of more than 100 mph. Following inflation the airbag deflates slowly within seconds. Facial and ocular injuries associated with airbags have been reported in the literature. Skin abrasions, burns, and eyelid ecchymoses are the most common facial injuries. Reported ocular injuries include orbital fractures, keratitis, corneal abrasions, hyphaemmas, angle recession, and lens subluxation. In the posterior segment, vitreous and retinal haemorrhage, commotio retinae, retinal tears and dialyses, and choroidal ruptures have been reported. To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of retinitis sclopeteria secondary to airbag inflation.

Specular microscopic findings of corneal deposits in patients with Bietti's crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy

Editor,—In 1937, Bietti1 first described three cases of tapetoretinal degeneration characterised by yellowish glistening retinal crystals, tapetoretinal degeneration with choroidal sclerosis, and marginal crystalline deposits of the cornea. Although more than 100 cases of crystalline retinopathy have been reported, crystalline deposits of the corneal limbus have been observed in only four out of 52 Japanese patients with crystalline retinopathy. Recently, observation using specular microscopy1,2 has been reported to be useful in detecting crystalline deposits at the limbus of patients with crystalline corneal retinal dystrophy. Therefore, in this study, we examined four patients with crystalline retinopathy using specular microscopy under a “con-surface” mode, which is used for the observation of the corneal surface, and we detected the deposits at the limbus.

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

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