

Spontaneous Resolution of a Traumatic Cataract in Cerebral Palsy Libyan Patient

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ABSTRACT

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Introduction

The rate of surgery in eastern Mediterranean countries remains low. The provision of widespread cataract surgery delivered in a timely fashion before individuals are visually impaired by this condition may result for a reduction of blindness and visual loss. A related disturbing issue is the frequency with which ophthalmic surgery results in intra operative or postoperative complications. In several eastern Mediterranean countries, the rate of complications following cataract surgery remains high. The recent introduction of new techniques for cataract surgery, including phacoemulsification, has been started by ophthalmologists in eastern Mediterranean countries. Despite these advances, less than 20% of the cataract surgery in eastern Mediterranean countries is phacoemulsification. This is because of lack of resources in certain areas for cold and emergency cases, the presence of corneal scars, and advanced mature cataracts [1].

History

An 10-year-old male came as emergency case to ophthalmology clinic in a teaching Alwahda Derna hospital with trauma right eye by spoon food accidentally by his sister for evaluation of a possible open globe and management. The boy complained of pain, was taken to the local emergency treatment center for evaluation. A slit lamp examination failed to reveal a foreign body. Early the next morning he awoke with worsening pain. On examination by ophthalmologist noted a small corneal laceration 2 to 3mm at 8 to 9-O'clock and lenticular change (cataract).

a) Past Ocular History: No prior ocular injury, surgery, or illness.

b) Past Medical History: known case of cerebral palsy

c) Medications: *tobradex ophthalmic drops, 4x/day, in the right eye.

*Tobradex eye ointment, twice daily

*Pilocarpin eye drops, three time daily (although the incision was small but taken this decision to prevent iris prolapse through the incision)

*Vegamox eye drops,,,, five time daily

d) Family and Social History: Noncontributory

e) Exam, Ocular:

- Motility: Normal; no restrictions
- Slit lamp examination
- 2.5 mm diameter full- thickness stellate corneal laceration (Seidel negative)
- Anterior chamber - deep
- Anterior capsular no tear
- Posterior rosette-shaped subcapsular cataract
- Dilated fundus exam (DFE): was difficult because cataracts changes of the lens

- Ultrasound No foreign body. No vitreous hemorrhage, the posterior lens capsule appeared to be intact.

Follow up after three days, a rosette-shaped PCC was observed while the anterior capsule and lens nucleus were still same picture and the small corneal lacerated wound healed and pilocarpin stopped. The lens of the left eye was normal. Within another 3 days, the PCC increased in density and covered the whole pupillary area. Fundoscopic examination of the right eye were difficult to perform secondary to the cataract, however, no gross abnormalities were noted. Options for management of the cataract, including cataract surgery, were discussed with the patient's father. Considering

his age and his general condition, we agreed upon conservative observation. The patient returned for follow-up every 3 week and waited for an appropriate time for surgery. At the two-month follow-up, we observed that the size of the PCC began to decrease. Five months later, only a faint imprint of the original cataract remained. Based on the patient's age and special his satiation and difficulty to surgical intervention, the patient received conservative management and follow-up. Interestingly, Surprisingly, the cataract gradually spontaneously resolved with time over the following 5 months and the fundus appear clear and restored red reflex (Figures 1 & 2).

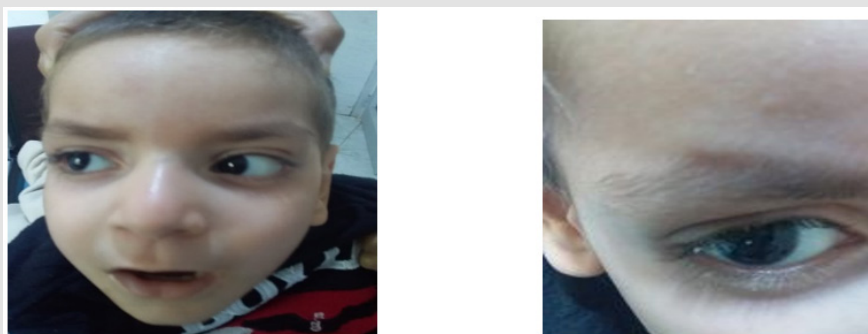


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Conclusion

several critical factors taken in consideration when treatment traumatic cataract in pediatric such as:

- General condition of patient
- Age
- The availability and extent of the possibility of performing the operation
- Visual development and the preservation of accommodative potential.
- Type and extend of trauma

To optimize treatment in pediatric traumatic cataract, conservative management with lens preservation is important to consider in young, traumatic cataract patients where invasive surgical intervention may not be required.

Discussion

Although in traumatic cataract, cataract extraction, usually in combination with intraocular lens implantation, is required for vision correction [2,3]. Spontaneous resolution of posterior cortical cataract (PCC) has been reported previously in cases where the cataract is caused by uncontrolled acute hyperglycemia [4]. In the case of traumatic cataracts, spontaneous reversal of PCC mainly occurs with mild or limited ocular injury, such as mild blunt contusion or small intralenticular foreign body [5,6]. or transient feathering of the lens after intraocular gas tamponade [7]. In severe open-globe ocular injury cases, spontaneous resolution of extensive dense PCC is rare [8]. However, if the lenticular capsule damage is limited, the proliferative lens epithelium can reseal the wound without progressive cataract formation, and in rare cases, allow cataract resolution [5]. The lens epithelium and fiber cells become damaged during injury, disrupting the integrity and permeability of the lenticular capsule. This leads to an influx of aqueous humor into the lens lamella, causing it to swell and irreversibly opacify secondary to the denaturation of lens proteins [9].

Rapidly developing traumatic cataract is a common manifestation in ocular injury cases, such as intra lenticular foreign body, contusive injury and open-globe ocular injury. Brini A. et al. inferred that the resorption of small superficial lens opacities may occur in a pseudo-lysosomal fashion [10]. Neumayer T. et al. observed the changes and disappearance of lens vacuoles within 4 weeks in PCC patients, which might partially explain PCC spontaneous regression [11]. Paradoxically, in our case, cataract density was worst at the posterior cortex and not the anterior part of lens. Previous reports indicate that in blunt ocular trauma, posterior capsular rupture is more likely to appear in children and young adults [12,13]. Wolter proposed that the absence of a sclerotic nucleus and strong zonular fibers in children and teenagers may allow the force of impact to transmit to the posterior part of lens [14]. In open-globe injury cases, cataract formation results from direct impact, and the location of the most dense opacity commonly indicates the point of greatest impact [3,11].

We hypothesize that in this open-globe injury case, the PCC is secondary to indirect shock waves stemming from impact. In young cataract patients, treatment options are more debated and require further consideration. It is known that the critical period of eye development ranges from 2 to 6 months of age, and emmetropization is generally achieved by 9 years of age [15]. To avoid amblyopia, some ophthalmologists recommend early surgical intervention for pediatric ocular traumatic cataracts, and in simple

PCC cases without corneal or retinal injury, cataract extraction with intraocular lens implantation can restore excellent visual acuity [2,16]. However, in young patients, cataract extraction also results in the loss of accommodation. For children, loss of accommodation and physiologic hyperopic reserve might affect the progress of emmetropization [17]. For teenagers, this loss of accommodation aggravates asthenopia during near work in daily life.

Trauma is a cause of monocular blindness in the developed world, although few studies have addressed the problem of trauma in rural areas. The aetiology of ocular injury in rural areas is likely to differ from that in urban areas and is worthy of investigation [18]. Any strategy for prevention requires knowledge of the cause of injury, which may enable more appropriate targeting of resources towards preventing such injuries. Eye trauma represents a large, potentially preventable burden on both victims and society as a whole [19]. Importantly, conservative observation may greatly benefit the young patient by avoiding unnecessary invasive surgical intervention, and its complication and subsequent loss of vision.

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