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CASE REPORT

Frontiers in Ophthalmology

A Rare Complication of Hypermature Cataract: Case Report

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Abstract

The hypermature senile cataract is an end stage in the process of age-related cataract formation. It can lead to numerous complications, and dislocation of the lens nucleus after spontaneous rupture is one of these complications, which is extremely uncommon.

We report unusual case of spontaneous rupture of the lens capsule in a man with hypermature cataract, who presented to us with nucleus dislocation in the anterior chamber. It is important to highlight this uncommon cause of acute ocular hypertension.

Case Report

We report a case of a 76-year-old-man, with history of diabetes and mature cataract with poor vision in both eyes increases in severity over the last two years. Otherwise, the patient denied having a history of recurrent eye redness or eye pain.

He presented to the ophthalmic emergencies for red and painful right eye evolving in the last 20 days, with no history of eye trauma.

The clinical examination of his right eye found a visual acuity reduced to counting fingers, ocular tone was 28mmHg. Slit-lamp examination of the anterior segment showed circumcorneal injection with corneal edema, a normal anterior chamber depth, and small yellow brownish lens nucleus dislocated in to the anterior chamber, and no tear of the anterior lens capsule could be seen because of corneal edema (Figure1).

A diagnosis of anterior dislocation of nucleus after spontaneous rupture of the lens capsule in hypermature cataract was made.

Cataract extraction with intraocular lens implantation in the sulcus was performed after controlling ocular tonus by medical treatments.

In the postoperative period the visual acuity had improved to 5/10, with normalization of IOP.

The hypermature senile cataract, also known as also morgagnian cataract characterized by producing milky fluids from liquefaction of cortical fibers lens. While the dense nucleus sink inferiorly in the capsular bag [1-3].

This type of cataract is an end stage in the process of age-related cataract formation. It can lead to numerous complications, such as phacolytic glaucoma, acute phacomorphic glaucoma, and lens induced uveitis [3, 4].

A few cases of dislocation of the lens nucleus after spontaneous rupture of the capsule have been reported. It is extremely uncommon. This dislocation can occur either in the anterior chamber, posterior chamber, or in the vitreous [2,4-7].

Malik VK and al described a case of spontaneous rupture of anterior capsule in senile cataract, with dislocation of nucleus from the sac to the posterior chamber, between iris and anterior capsule. The patient did not have induced uveitis or increased intraocular pressure; and the authors explained that by absorption of cortical matter or by leaking in the vitreous. The patient underwent nucleus extraction and intraocular lens implantation in the sulcus [4].

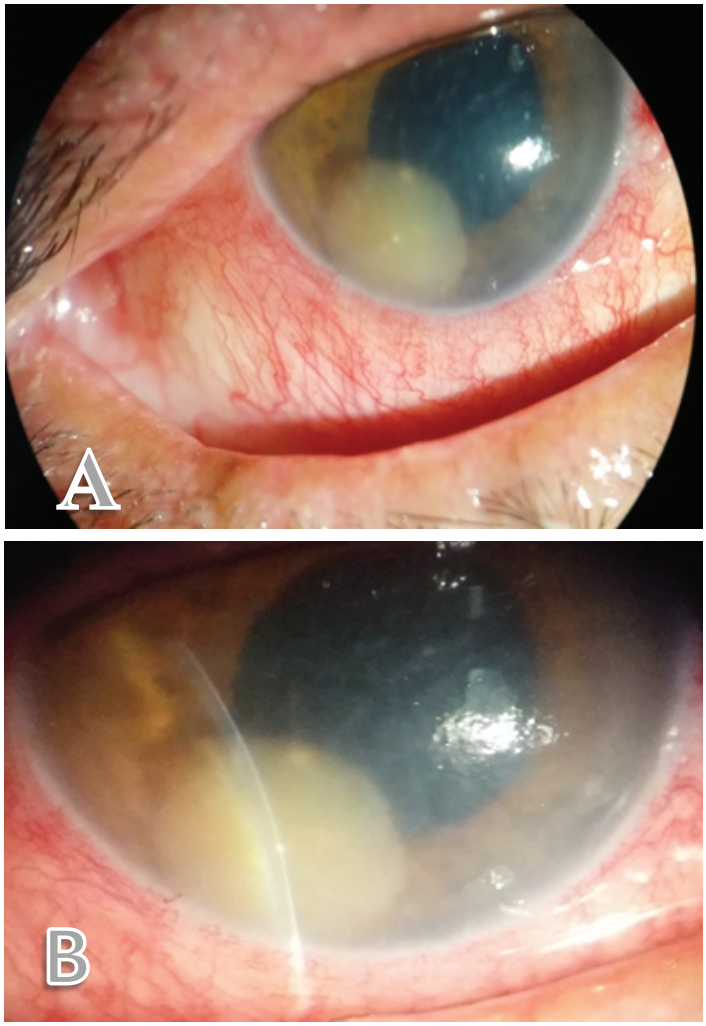

Figure 1. *(A) Slit-lamp photograph shows a small nucleus dislocated into the anterior chamber. (B) Higher magnification: lenticular-corneal touch with corneal oedema*

Also a similar case of anterior spontaneous rupture of capsule with anterior dislocation of nucleus in hyper mature cataract was described by Ming in 1963 [7].

While Ballen PH, and al have reported a case of acute rupture of the lens capsule in hyper mature cataract with persistence of nucleus inside the capsule with increased intraocular pressure, the author described white fluid in the anterior chamber [6].

Recently Hemalatha et al. (2012) describe a case with bilateral spontaneous anterior dislocation of the nucleus in a patient with history of thyrotoxicosis. The patient did not have induced uveitis or increased intraocular pressure [5].

And in a case series of 10 eyes with spontaneous capsular dehiscence in hyper mature cataract; three of ten eyes had anterior dislocation of the nucleus, two eyes had posterior dislocation, while in the other five eyes the nucleus could not be located on examination or investigation, the authors explained that by it absorption. And only three cases presented with complaints of red and painful eye [2].

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