

Ectopic Cilia

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Abstract

Case Report

We report two cases with ectopic cilia. A 66-year-old female presented with 6-month history of conjunctival hyperemia and irritation in her left eye. Slit-lamp examination revealed several black cilia and soft hairs protruding from the fornix of the left lower conjunctiva. The mass was removed under topical anesthesia. A 14-year-old boy presented with 2-month history of conjunctival hyperemia and irritation in his left eye. Slit-lamp examination revealed a hair located in the palpebral conjunctiva of the upper lid with bulbar conjunctival hyperemia in the left eye. The cilia was plucked out without topical anesthesia. Ectopic cilia are a rare condition. Clinicians should be aware of ectopic cilia as a cause of irritation, tearing, and bulbar conjunctival hyperemia.

Keywords: ectopic cilia, bulbar conjunctiva, palpebral conjunctiva.

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INTRODUCTION

There are numerous abnormalities that bring the eyelashes into contact with the globe. Ectopic cilia is a very rare condition that consists of disturbance of the position of the eyelashes [1]. Herein, we report two cases with this rare anomaly.

CASE REPORTS

Case 1

A 66-year-old female presented with 6-month history of conjunctival hyperemia and irritation in her left eye. Visual acuity was 1.0 in both eyes. On slit-lamp examination, eversion of the lower eyelid demonstrated that several black cilia and soft hairs were protruding from the fornix of the left lower conjunctiva (Figure 1). The patient was diagnosed with ectopic cilia. The mass was removed under topical anesthesia. There was no evidence of recurrence postoperatively.

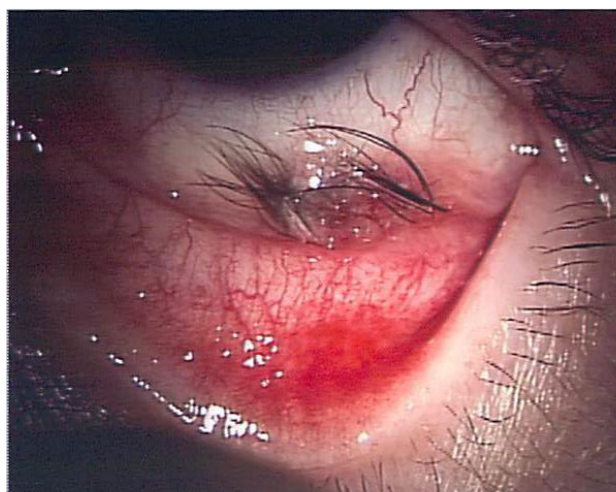


Figure 1: Photographs of the anterior segment obtained using slit-lamp microscopy at initial presentation

Note several black cilia and soft hairs in the fornix of the left lower conjunctiva with bulbar conjunctival hyperemia.

Case 2

A 14-year-old boy presented with 2-month history of conjunctival hyperemia and irritation in his left

eye. Visual acuity was 1.2 in both eyes. Slit-lamp examination revealed a hair located in the palpebral conjunctiva of the upper lid with bulbar conjunctival hyperemia in the left eye (Figure 2). The patient was diagnosed with ectopic cilia. The cilia was plucked out without topical anesthesia. No recurrence was observed after removal.

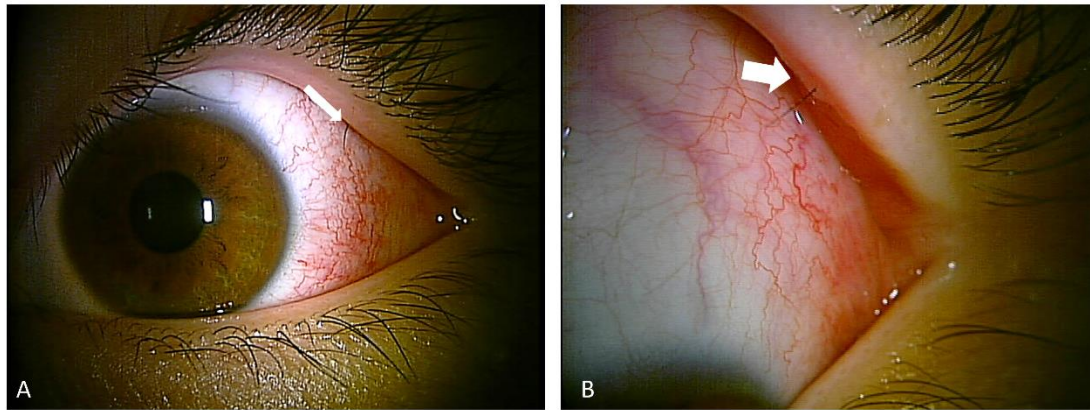


Figure 2: Photographs of the anterior segment obtained using slit-lamp microscopy at initial presentation.
Note ectopic cilia in the left superior palpebral conjunctiva (arrows) with bulbar conjunctival hyperemia.

DISCUSSION

In this case 1, the differential diagnoses included dermoid, foreign body granuloma and conjunctival cilia entrapment. Dermoids are unusual congenital tumors consisting of ectodermal and mesodermal elements in various proportions. If the temporarily fallen eyelashes have accumulated to form a foreign body granuloma, soft hairs should not exist. Therefore, we considered that the appearance of the mass was indicative of ectopic cilia. Ectopic cilia are extremely rare condition that is mostly found in the upper eyelid and have never been observed in the fornix of the lower conjunctiva [1-3].

Entropion and trichiasis are often experienced, and these exist along the eyelid margin. In contrast, ectopic cilia are a rare condition, and present away from the eyelid margin. Ectopic cilia fall into two distinct types: cilia protruding from the anterior surface of the tarsal plate and cilia protruding from the posterior surface [3, 4]. The present case is considered to be of the posterior type.

CONCLUSION

Clinicians should be aware of ectopic cilia as a cause of irritation, tearing, and bulbar conjunctival hyperemia.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no financial or proprietary interests related to this paper.

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