Comments on temporary resolution of foveal schisis following vitrectomy with silicon oil tamponade in X-linked retinoschisis with retinal detachment

Sir,
Goel and Ghosh present a very interesting case in their report entitled, “Temporary resolution of foveal schisis following vitrectomy with silicon oil tamponade in X-linked retinoschisis with retinal detachment.”[1] The authors document with the help of optical coherence tomography, temporary resolution of foveal schisis in a case operated for retinal detachment with X-linked retinoschisis, that recurred after silicone oil removal.

The case not only provides an insight into pathology of the inherited disorder but also underlines the irreversible visual loss that may be associated with foveal schisis. Visual acuity had improved to 20/120 at the time when foveal schisis had temporarily resolved due to oil tamponade, but after its recurrence following oil removal, the visual acuity remained similar, 20/80, instead of decreasing that one may expect. Therefore, morphological alignment of the middle retinal layers did not contribute to visual acuity which had been lost permanently. Although good results with surgery have been published earlier,[2] surgery for foveal schisis alone hence may not always be fruitful.

Another valuable conclusion that one may draw from this unique case is that the best time to perform internal limiting membrane (ILM) peel in such cases of retinal detachment would be during oil removal rather than during vitrectomy itself. Macula at that time would be more resistant to inadvertent damage due to manual traction. The authors too mention the controversy surrounding ideal treatment of X-linked foveal schisis and the risk of macular complication during ILM peel in patients with foveal schisis.

We keenly await the authors’ response.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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Screening for diabetic retinopathy: New methods to come

Sir,

Diabetes is a commonly discussed disease condition for its effects on almost each system of human body. The macro as well microvascular complications of diabetes are detrimental for the important organs. Ophthalmological involvement of the disease is of much concern as it can result in blindness. Hence, the search is going on an optimum method for screening of diabetic retinopathy so that early detection of any problem can be diagnosed as well as treated.

Early detection and treatment can halt complications of diabetic retinopathy (DR) to a great extent. A nation‑wide drive to screen for DR has already been launched from November 14th–20th 2014. Studies were able to demonstrate that early treatment can result in a reduction of the risk of vision loss by 57%. Apart from dilated fundoscopic examination, several other alternatives such as digital nonmydriatic retinal imaging (NMRI) technique has been developed to include a larger number of patients under screening program for DR. However, the sensitivity and specificity of NMRI technique have been found to be around 60% and 70%, respectively. The presence of the cataract in older patients limits its proper practical implications.

A pilot study has demonstrated the success of automated DR imaging for screening in Indian population. Recently, a retrospective cohort analysis of 15,015 diabetics underwent a retinal screening and nonmydriatic fundus photography through Intelligent Retinal Imaging System (IRIS). The IRIS computer algorithm‑based screening program showed high sensitivity and a low false‑negative rate. Further, data are required so that such screening methods become more patient‑friendly, cost‑effective. Application of this type of algorithm can be pursued for the better understanding of the contribution of teleretinal imaging as well as automated analysis in the case of diabetic patients.

Proper utilization of these techniques needs more information. However, undoubtedly future will provide promising result in this field.

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