

Case Report

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Axenfeld-Rieger Syndrome: A Case Report with Literature Review

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Introduction

Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome (ARS) is a rare autosomal dominant disorder that has both systemic and ocular anterior segment dysgenesis. The ocular manifestations include posterior embryotoxon, iris and anterior angle anomalies with a high risk of glaucoma and blindness. The systemic manifestations can include craniofacial abnormalities such as maxillary hypoplasia, hypodontia, oligodontia and microdont.

Case Report

We report the case of an 8 years old boy with no personal or family history, who was referred for redness and bilateral progressive decrease of the visual acuity. An ophthalmic examination was performed. The best corrected visual acuity was 2/10 on the right eye and 4/10 on the left eye. The intraocular pressure was respectively 28mmhg and 26 mmhg in both eyes. The white to white corneal diameter was 10.5mm on the left eye and 11mm on the right eye.

The slit lamp examination showed in both eyes a clear cornea with posterior embryotoxon, stromal iris hypoplasia with corectopia and polycoria. The gonioscopy showed anterior synechia in both eyes and the fundus examination found an advanced excavated optic disc in both eyes.

A general exam was performed and revealed dental abnormalities such as superior hypodontia and microdontia and cone-shaped teeth. There were no anomalies in the periumbilical skin or other systemic features.

The diagnostic of axenfeld Rieger syndrome with secondary glaucoma was made. First, a combined beta blockers and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors drug was prescribed to reach a controlled IOP. Then, a trabeculotomy was performed with good outcomes.

Discussion

Axenfeld-Rieger syndrome is a spectrum of rare disorders characterized by anomalous development of the neural crest-derived anterior segment structures, including the anterior chamber angle, the iris, and the trabecular meshwork and systemics features. Mutations in the FOXC1 and PITX2 genes were associated with ARS in an autosomal dominant inherited manner [1].

The ocular involvement in ARS is usually bilateral, rarely asymmetric and exceptionally unilateral. It includes anomalies in the cornea (posterior embryotoxon), iris (corectopia or polycoria associated with anterior iris stromal atrophy), and angle structures that can result in secondary glaucoma in approximately 50% of affected patients and can lead to blindness [2-3].

Systemic developmental abnormalities in ARS includes cardiac malformations, non-involution of periumbilical skin, craniofacial dysmorphism (hypertelorism, telecanthus, maxillary hypoplasia), dental malformations (microdontia, hypodontia, oligodontia, anodontia). Anal stenosis, hypospadias, pituitary gland abnormalities, arachnoid cysts, growth retardation can also be seen [4-5].

The management of the ocular findings in ARS should be proposed whenever a secondary glaucoma is diagnosed. In that case, a conventional glaucoma surgery like trabeculectomy and trabeculotomy is required. In fact, Mandal and Peheré confirmed the safety and effectiveness of the combination of trabeculotomy and trabeculectomy for ARS children with early-onset of glaucoma. The maxillary and oral anomalies need orthodontic surgery and intensive restorative care with implantology [4-6].

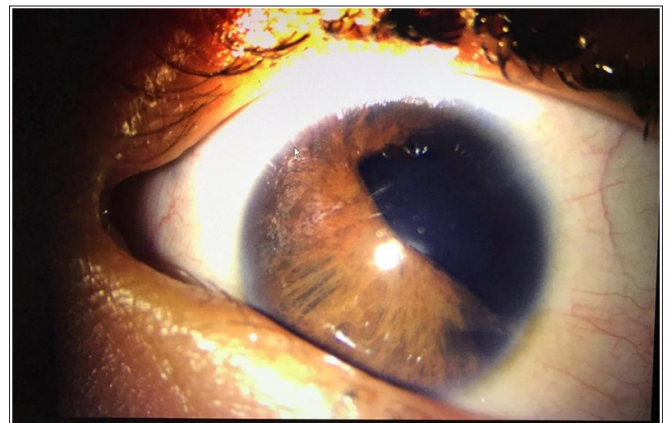


Figure 1: Right eye with polycoria, iris atrophy and posterior embryotoxon

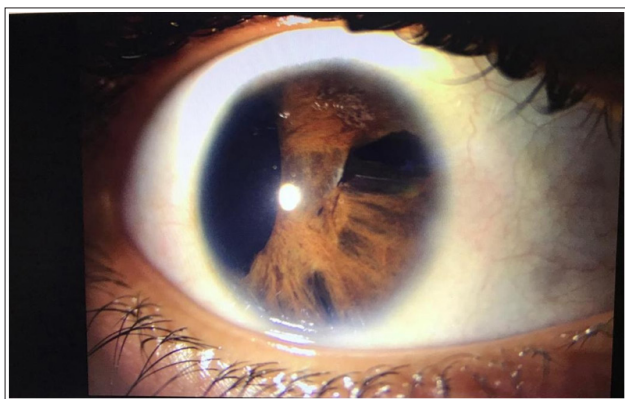


Figure 2: Left eye with polycoria, corectopia, iris atrophy, posterior embryotoxon

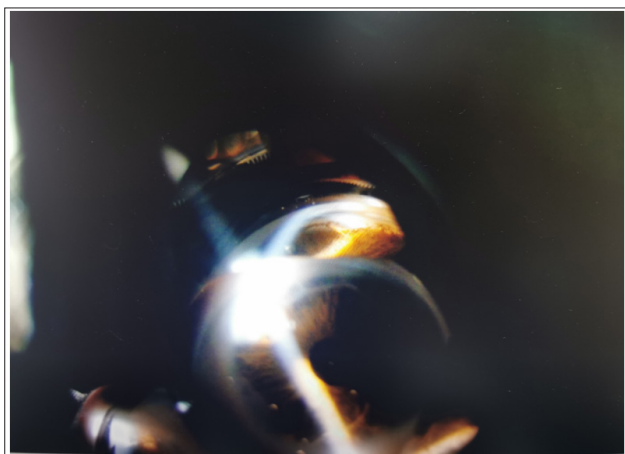


Figure 3: Gonioscopy showing goniosynechiae and angle dysgenesis

Conclusion

The aim of this case report is to show the interest of an early diagnosis and management of Axenfeld Rieger Syndrome in order to avoid secondary glaucoma and blindness.

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