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Title Insidious transpalpebral fistula secondary to scleral buckle

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Abstract

Retinal detachments treated with scleral buckle are an important technique for the vitreoretinal surgeon. This case describes a rare complication of extrusion of the buckle through an eyelid fistula that was initially diagnosed as chronic conjunctivitis for 10 years. The buckle was removed and the fistula left to self-granulate, leading to resolution of symptoms.

Keywords scleral buckle; eyelid fistula; retinal detachment

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Corresponding Author Nizar Din

Corresponding Author's

Institution

Moorfields Eye Hospital

Order of Authors Nizar Din, Syed Shahid, Siegfried Wagner, Rabia Bourkiza

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Insidious transpalpebral fistula secondary to scleral buckle

Nizar Din FRCOphth¹,Syed M Shahid MSc, FRCOphth²,Siegfried K Wagner FRCOphth³, Rabia Bourkiza FRCOphth⁴

- ¹ Moorfields Eye Hospital, 162 City Road, London, EC1V 2PD
- ² Moorfields Eye Hospital, 162 City Road, London, EC1V 2PD
- ³ Moorfields Eye Hospital, 162 City Road, London, EC1V 2PD
- ⁴Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, Park Royal, London, NW10 7NS

Corresponding author: Nizar Din Specialist Registrar Moorfields Eye Hospital 162, City Road London EC1V 2PD Phone: 07857316398

Email: nizar.din@nhs.net

No declaration of competing/conflict of interest of note No financial sources to declare

The case:

A 78-year old gentleman was referred to the emergency eye clinic with a three month history of pain, discharge and redness from the right upper eyelid. He had attended the ophthalmic emergency department seven times in the past year, having been diagnosed with recurrent infective conjunctivitis. He had a history of right retinal detachment surgery that was repaired with scleral buckle and cryotherapy over ten years ago, with subsequent vitrectomy and silicone oil insertion. Of note, the scleral buckle was left in-situ at the time of his second operation. The visual acuity at presentation was hand movements in the right eye and 20/30 in the left eye. Examination revealed a tender erythematous upper lid and diffuse conjunctival injection. Careful eversion of the upper lid showed a very inflamed tarsal conjunctiva (figure A) with evidence of the scleral buckle extruding through the full thickness of the upper eyelid with a fistula to the surface (Figure B). The patient was started on topical chloramphenicol ointment and oral co-amoxiclav 625mg TDS as empirical treatment. He was listed for urgent removal of the buckle in theatre under a local anaesthetic. The fistula was left to self-granulate through secondary intention. At 2-month follow-up, the discharge had settled and the patient's symptoms had fully resolved.

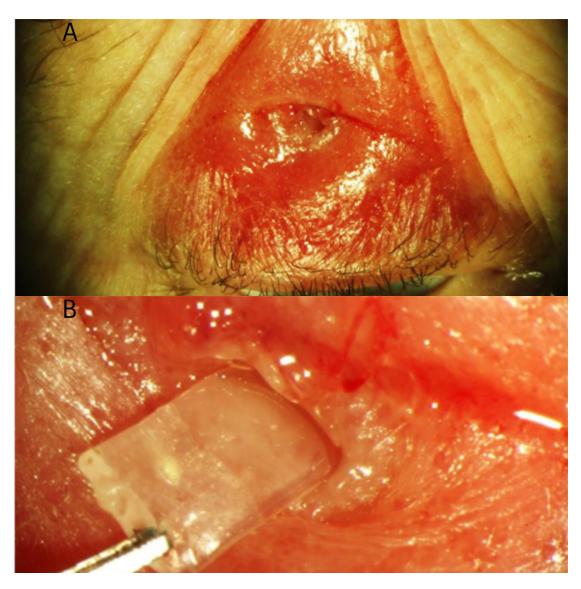
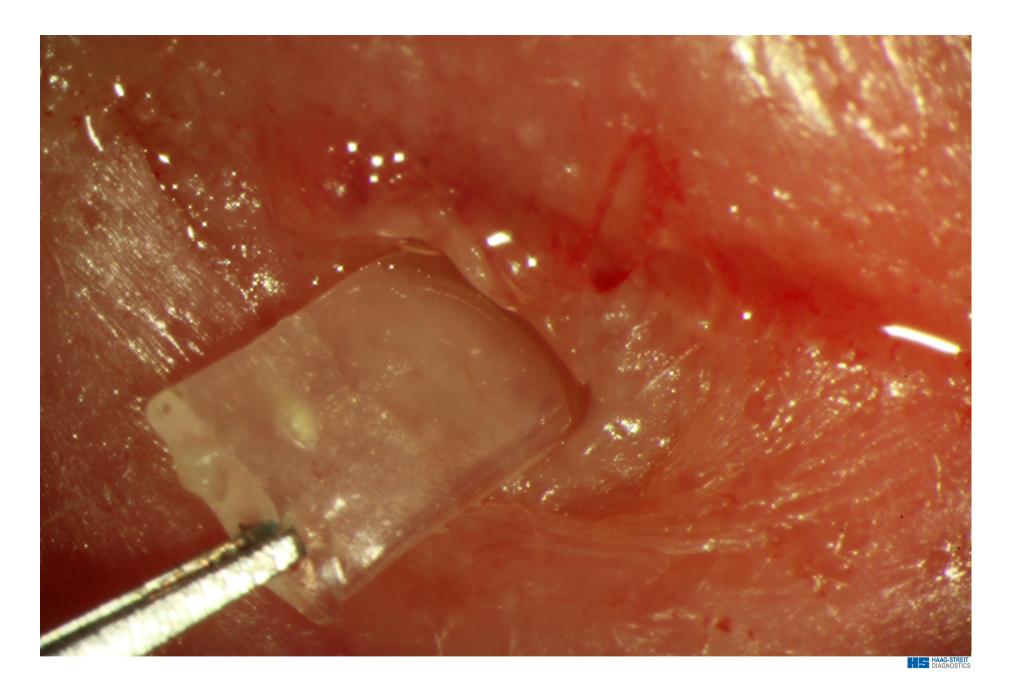


Figure: Formation of a fistula involving the upper eyelid (A) and explantation of the scleral buckle (B)





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