Mechanical Blepharoptosis and Eyelid Swelling Caused by Silicone Oil

Thabit A. Mustafa, Khalid M. Al-Zuoby and Ali M. Alawneh

ABSTRACT
The purpose of this article is to report a case of upper eyelid mechanical ptosis caused by silicone oil migration in a Jordanian patient after pars plana vitrectomy and intraocular silicone oil injection. A 20-year-old male patient was referred to the oculoplastic clinic for the management of a left upper eyelid swelling and complete ptosis that developed 12 years after pars plana vitrectomy and silicone oil placement for retinal detachment secondary to perforating eye injury. Eye examination showed upper eyelid swelling and a complete ptosis induced by the weight of inflammatory tissue and silicone oil, as proved by histopathologic examination. We presumed that silicone oil had leaked through the pars plana vitrectomy ports or through a subtle traumatic perforation of the posterior segment, which might have been aggravated by increased intra-ocular pressure postoperatively. In conclusion, mechanical ptosis caused by silicone oil migration after retinal detachment surgery is rare and this is one of the few reports in the literature.

KEY WORDS: silicone oil; blepharoptosis; lipogranulomatous; retinal detachment.

INTRODUCTION
Silicones are synthetic compounds and do not exist naturally. These materials are very stable, highly biocompatible, non-toxic, and insoluble in body fluids. Silicone oil was first used for the treatment of retinal detachment in 1962 by Cibis.1 The use of silicone gel in aesthetic surgery has been surrounded by controversy related to concerns about migration, toxicity and an unproven association with systemic diseases, leading to a restriction, issued by the FDA in 1992, on the use of silicone gel implants.

Migration of silicone oil from the vitreous cavity into the upper eyelid, after pars plana vitrectomy with intraocular silicone oil injection, is a very rare complication. We report here on a patient who developed a unilateral upper eyelid ptosis and swelling 12 years after vitreoretinal surgery with silicone oil injection.

CASE REPORT
A 20-year-old male patient was referred to the oculoplastic clinic for the treatment of left upper eyelid swelling and ptosis on December 6, 2006. He had a history of perforating eye injury caused by hammering metal on metal in 1994. Primary repair of the corneal wound was done followed by cataract extraction; posterior sclera wound repair, and 3-port pars plana vitrectomy with intraocular silicone oil injection. The metallic foreign body was located behind the eyeball and adjacent to vital intra-orbital structures and, therefore, was left in place as it was not interfering with vision and no signs of orbital cellulitis were noticed (Figure 1).

From the Royal Medical Services of Jordan, King Hussein Medical Centre.

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DISCUSSION

The patient was lost to follow-up for 12 years and came back for the treatment of left upper eyelid swelling and ptosis that had started six months before presentation. The swelling was gradual on onset, red, painless, involving the upper eyelid and causing severe ptosis. Palpation of the eyelid revealed mobile subcutaneous small lumps that were not tethered to the skin. Computed tomography scan of the orbit showed a hyperdense homogenous oval opacity that occupied the anterior half of the left vitreous cavity (silicone oil), discrete hyperdense homogenous small opacities behind and above the eye and in front of the foreign body, and mild upper eyelid thickening. A metallic foreign body was also seen near the greater wing of the sphenoid above and medial to the middle of the lateral rectus muscle (Figure 1). One month later, surgical exploration was performed transcutaneously. The preaponeurotic fat was found to be invaded by silicone oil globules, which were semisolid (Figure 2). Excision of the globules was done and the levator aponeurosis, which was found to be dehisced, was then repaired. Histopathology showed cysts of silicone oil associated with lipogranulomatous inflammatory reaction. The patient was seen after one week postoperatively and there was a slight improvement of the ptosis.

The migration of silicone oil from the sub-Tenon space across the levator complex into the pre-aponeurotic fat might be due to a plane opened by the foreign body or to intraoperative trauma.

Dehiscence of the levator aponeurosis, which was seen intraoperatively, could be due to the weight of the silicone oil and to the lymphoedema caused by the inflammatory reaction to the silicone foreign body (siliconoma).

We describe a case of silicone ptosis, a posttreatment complication of retinal detachment treated by silicone oil injection. Silicone oil ptosis occurred when silicone oil was left in situ for an extended period of time, so it is recommended to remove intraocular silicone oil after 3 months to prevent complications, and long term follow-up is needed for those patients who have to retain silicone oil for extended periods of time.

REFERENCES


FIGURE 2
Preaponeurotic fat invaded by silicone oil globules.