Dexamethasone/tobramycin

**Intraocular lens opacification following ophthalmic administration: case report**

Intraocular lens opacification developed in a 55-year-old man with cataracts who had undergone lens implantation and received postoperative ophthalmic administration of an ointment containing tobramycin plus dexamethasone.

Following surgery, the man received an ointment containing 0.3% tobramycin plus 0.1% dexamethasone ointment and 0.5% chlorobutanol in a mineral oil, white petrolatum base (frequency of application not stated). Concomitant medications included ciprofloxacin, prednisolone and ketorolac. Approximately 8 months after lens implantation, he presented with a decrease in visual acuity to 20/100 and blurred vision. Examination showed a vertical row of WBCs on the posterior corneal surface and WBCs in the aqueous humour. He received prednisolone acetate drops. Approximately 1 month later, his intraocular pressure (IOP) increased, which was thought to be a corticosteroid response; IOP normalised following prednisolone acetate cessation. Blurred vision and inflammatory symptoms recurred.

The man subsequently underwent repositioning procedures approximately 1 month later and again approximately 3 months after that. During both lens repositioning procedures, he received the same postoperative treatment as with the implantation surgery. Approximately 5 months after the second repositioning procedure, blurred vision persisted, and a capsulotomy was performed. Almost 4 weeks later, ‘globules’, which resembled mutton-fat keratic precipitates were observed on the intraocular lens. Approximately 7 months later, the globules, which gave the intraocular lens a greasy appearance, were still present, and the lens was replaced. Blurred vision and inflammation did not recur.

Subsequent gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis of the explanted lens surface extract showed compounds also found in the tobramycin plus dexamethasone ointment.

**Author comment:** 'We hypothesize that intraocular penetration of the ointment caused the coating of the intraocular lens by this substance.'