

Oxybuprocaine

S

Toxic epitheliopathy in an elderly patient: case report

A 69-year-old woman developed toxic epitheliopathy after receiving oxybuprocaine.

The woman, who had a history of primary Sjogren's syndrome, was admitted for elective cataract surgery. Her medications included an NSAID, artificial tears and lubricants applied to both eyes daily. Upon arrival at the operating theatre, she received six drops of topical preservative-free oxybuprocaine (0.4%; 0.5mL unit dose) into the eye for sensory anaesthesia, including four drops on the cornea, and one each in the superior and inferior conjunctival cul de sac. She underwent a peri-bulbar eye block for surgical anaesthesia for cataract extraction. The local anaesthetic mixture contained lidocaine, bupivacaine and hyaluronidase. Examination prior to cataract extraction showed a subepithelial peripheral ring infiltrate with conjunctival congestion over the superior and inferior nasal quadrants of the eye, attributed to the single application of oxybuprocaine applied 10 minutes earlier.

The woman received no further applications of oxybuprocaine. She received dexamethasone. Over the following week, the epithelial defect resolved, with resolution of the conjunctival congestion. No further treatment was required.

Author comment: "We report a case of toxic epitheliopathy after application of six drops of preservative free oxybuprocaine (0.4%) in a patient with Sjogren's syndrome during routine cataract surgery."

Ansari H, et al. Toxic epitheliopathy from a single application of preservative free oxybuprocaine (0.4%) in a patient with Sjogren's syndrome. *BMJ Case Reports* 2013; [3 pages], 13 Sep 2013. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bcr-2013-010487> - Australia 803098225