

Oxybuprocaine abuse

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Keratitis: case report

A 47-year-old man began abusing oxybuprocaine and developed keratitis. He was later diagnosed with floppy eyelid syndrome.

The man presented with a 1-year history of reduced visual acuity and redness in both eyes, for which multiple previous therapies had been ineffective. On examination he had significant pain and photophobia, with oedema and erythema of his eyelids, conjunctival injection, and peripheral neovascularisation. His corneas displayed hazing and large central erosions.

The man was admitted and received lubricants and autologous serum. He later revealed that for the past year, he had been using oxybuprocaine 0.4% eyedrops [Localin] continuously and intensively. The drug was withdrawn and he was given systemic analgesics. He received temporary tarsorrhaphies and improved, but was subsequently lost to follow-up.

Two months later, the man was readmitted with the same symptoms, having resumed topical anaesthetic abuse [*drug not stated*]. Floppy eyelid syndrome was identified and corrected surgically. Topical treatment was continued, and he improved remarkably.

Author comment: *Floppy eyelid syndrome "may cause chronic eye irritation and incite selected patients to turn to topical anesthetic abuse for relief. . . this may further exacerbate the keratitis in a vicious cycle."*

Goldich Y, et al. Topical anesthetic abuse keratitis secondary to floppy eyelid syndrome. *Cornea* 30: 105-106, No. 1, Jan 2011. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ico.0b013e3181e458af> - Israel 803049196