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Azam Ali
Aga Khan University, azam.ali@aku.edu

Agha H. Feroze

Zulfqar H. Rizvi

Tausif-Ur Rehman

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Consanguineous Marriage Resulting in Homozygous Occurrence of X-linked Retinoschisis in Girls
Azam Ali, MRCOphth, FRCOphth, FRCS(Ed), FRCS(Glas), Agha H. Feroze, MB, BS, Zulfiqar H. Rizvi, MB, BS, and Tausif-Ur-Rehman, MB, BS

PURPOSE: To investigate a family afflicted with X-linked retinoschisis and to determine the pedigree leading to such an occurrence.

DESIGN: Observational case series.

METHODS: Visual acuities were measured at The Aga Khan University Hospital Ophthalmology clinic. Slit-lamp examination, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopies were performed on each of the seven members of this family. The pedigree was established by appropriate questioning about the rest of their family.

RESULTS: The pedigree revealed the homozygosity of the four daughters for the XLRS mutations. Accepted for publication April 15, 2003.

From the Department of Ophthalmology, The Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan.

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Inquiries to Azam Ali, MRCOphth, FRCOphth, FRCS(Ed), FRCS(Glas), Department of Ophthalmology, The Aga Khan University, Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan; fax: (+9221) 4934-294; e-mail: azam.ali@aku.edu

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A consanguineous marriage between an affected father and a carrier mother.

**CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first report showing that consanguineous marriages lead to homozygous pairing of XLRS genes in female children, as concluded after a MEDLINE search. (Am J Ophthalmol 2003;136:767–769. © 2003 by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.)

A girl was clinically diagnosed with X-linked juvenile retinoschisis (XLRS). Owing to the unusual severity of this disease in a female, the whole family was checked for the manifestations of this X-linked recessive disorder. Their family tree for four generations is shown in Figure 1 and reveals the homozygosity of the four daughters for XLRS mutations.

A girl (IV, 4 in Figure 1) presented to us with bilateral nystagmus and light perception in the right eye only. In the right eye, there was total rigid retinal detachment. The left eye had gross searching horizontal nystagmus with leucoria. There was no fundus view on the left side, and the B-scan showed total retinal detachment in the left eye.

The father (III, 4 in Figure 1) was diagnosed with XLRS as a child. His best-corrected acuities were 6/18 in the right eye and counting fingers at 2 m in the left eye. He had a left divergent squint and relative afferent pupillary defect in the amblyopic left eye. There was extensive macular scarring and signs of peripheral retinoschisis in both eyes. His wife (III, 5 in Figure 1) and a 13-year-old son (IV, 1 in Figure 1) were clinically normal with unaided 6/6 vision in both eyes, clear media, and no retinal abnormalities.

Their 10-year-old daughter (IV, 2 in Figure 1) had best-corrected visual acuities of 6/60 in the right eye and 3/60 in the left eye. There were punctate lens opacities in the right eye, but the left lens was clear. There was obvious macular schisis of the typical bicycle wheel configuration, with long-standing inferior retinoschisis extending to the inferior arcades in both eyes.

Their 5-year-old daughter (IV, 3 in Figure 1) had left esotropia. Her best-corrected visual acuities were 6/36 in the right eye and 6/60 in the left eye. There was a zonular cataract in the left eye, and she had bilateral inferior scars with pigmentary changes accompanying peripheral and macular retinoschisis. Her optic disks were healthy, and there was no evidence of retinal detachment.

The youngest daughter (IV, 5 in Figure 1) was 1 year old. She had left esotropia first noticed when she was 3 months old. Being too young for an accurate assessment of vision, she seemed to have better vision in her right eye compared with the left eye. She had bilateral retinal detachment and retinoschisis with macular involvement. There were secondary changes in the areas of detachment with markedly atrophic retinae.

X-linked juvenile retinoschisis is an incurable hereditary vitreoretinal degeneration and the most common cause of juvenile macular degeneration in males. The mode of transmission of XJR is X-linked recessive, primarily affecting males. Female patients with XJR from consanguineous marriages have been reported for the first time in this case series. A father and his daughter from a consanguineous marriage have been reported by Yamaguchi and Hara to have autosomal recessive juvenile retinoschisis. After a MEDLINE search of the literature, we conclude that this is the first report of homozygous XLRS occurrence in females from a consanguineous marriage.
Nonmechanical Posterior Lamellar Keratoplasty Using the Femtosecond Laser (femto-PLAK) for Corneal Endothelial Decompensation

Berthold Seitz, MD, FEO,
Achim Langenbcher, PhD,
Carmen Hofmann-Rummelt,
Ursula Schlötzer-Schrehardt, PhD, and
Gottfried O. H. Naumann, MD

PURPOSE: To assess the potential of a short pulsed laser to cut a posterior graft and bed for posterior lamellar keratoplasty (PLAK).

DESIGN: Experimental study.

METHODS: Using the laser FEMTEC (20/10 Perfect Vision, Heidelberg, Germany), posterior lamellar dissections (wave length approximately 1 µm, pulse energy < 10 µJ, spot size <10 µm, repetition rate 12.5 kHz, 6-mm–7 mm diameter, 31 s and 90 s) were performed in 18 freshly enucleated porcine eyes and 10 human donor corneas starting from the anterior chamber and ending with the lamellar bed.

RESULTS: Before removal, 50-µm to 500-µm-thick flaps were delineated by partly confluent gas bubbles (maximum 2-mm long) with minute tissue bridges (typically 5- to 10-µm) in between. Scanning electron microscopy displayed smooth cut surfaces and rectangular corners with minor remaining tissue bridges (approximately 5 µm). By transmission electron microscopy, the cut edges were lined by a delicate, electron-dense layer (5 nm–10 nm in width) and essentially normal adjacent collagen fibers.

CONCLUSIONS: Femtosecond laser technology seems to offer a promising approach to minimally invasive posterior lamellar keratoplasty (femto-PLAK) through small tunnel incisions in corneal endothelial diseases. (Am J Ophthalmol 2003;136:769–772. © 2003 by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.)

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From the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany.
Inquiries to Berthold Seitz, MD, Augenklinik mit Poliklinik der Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Schwabachanlage 6, D-91054 Erlangen, Germany; fax: (+49) 9131-853-4126; e-mail: berthold.seitz@augen.imed.uni-erlangen.de

AFTER UNCOMPLICATED NORMAL-RISK PENETRATING KERATOPLASTY, HIGH OR IRREGULAR CORNEAL ASTIGMATISM and ametropia are among the major complications impairing the optical quality of the graft. These problems may be solved in part by nonmechanical corneal trephination in donor and recipient using the 193-nm excimer laser along metal masks with eight "orientation teeth."

Among the most frequent indications (30%–40%) for penetrating keratoplasty in developed countries are pseudophakic or aphakic bullous keratopathy and Fuchs dystrophy. For these corneal endothelial diseases, Melles and associates2 in Europe and Terry and Ousley3 in the United States introduced the technique of posterior lamellar keratoplasty, or deep lamellar endothelial keratoplasty, to selectively exchange endothelium, Descemet membrane, and as little adjacent stroma as possible. In contrast to the “open sky” approach with full-thickness keratoplasty techniques, the recipient eye is opened with a tunnel type of incision, thus reducing the amount of tissue transplanted, reducing the risk of infection, expulsive hemorrhage, and suture-related complications (graft rejection due to suture loosening, vascularization, suture infection) thus requiring fewer frequent postoperative follow-up visits. However, there are several challenges that remain in this procedure. The manual dissection of a deep lamellar plane through a 9.0-mm scleral limbal incision remains difficult, with a significant risk of inadvertent perforation. The greatest technical challenge in this procedure is the intralamellar trephination and scissors excision of the recipient posterior disk supported by only an air bubble in the anterior chamber.3 In an attempt toward standardization of these difficult steps, the purpose of this study was to assess the potential of a short pulsed laser to cut a posterior graft and bed in a controlled, automated manner.

In this laboratory study 18 freshly enucleated porcine eyes and 10 human donor corneas not suitable for corneal transplantation were treated. Using the laser FEMTEC (20/10 Perfect Vision, Heidelberg, Germany) we performed posterior lamellar dissections (wave length approximately 1 µm, pulse energy < 10 µJ, spot size < 10 µm, repetition rate 12.5 kHz) starting from the anterior chamber and ending with the lamellar bed. Pulse energy and spacing of the spots were varied. After the laser action, complete flaps (6 mm–7 mm diameter) were either removed manually (nine pig eyes, five human corneas) or left in situ and were fixed in 10% buffered formaldehyde solution and processed for periodic acid-Schiff and hema-toxylin and eosin stain light microscopy, transmission electron microscopy (in two pig eyes and one human cornea after manual flap removal), and scanning electron microscopy (in two pig eyes and one human cornea with the flap left in situ). Main outcome measures included feasibility of the flap creation, configuration of the flap/bed, regularity of the cut surfaces, and thermal damage adjacent to the cut edge.

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