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Corneal Ectasia Dystrophies & Degenerations

Learning objectives



Discuss the etiology, clinical features, investigation and management of keratoconus.



Give an overview of corneal dystrophies and degenerations.

Corneal Ectasia

Abnormal shape of the cornea.

- Keratoconus
- Pellucid Marginal Degeneration
- Keratoglobus

- Keratoconus is a progressive disorder.
- Cornea assumes a conical shape secondary to stromal thinning & protrusion.
- Onset around puberty
- Both eyes are affected.

- Presentation
 - Typically, during puberty
 - Unilateral impairment of vision due to progressive myopia & astigmatism.
 - 50% of normal fellow eyes progress to keratoconus within 16 years.



Diagnosis

- Hallmark central or paracentral stromal thinning, atypical protrusion & irregular astigmatism.
- Graded by keratometry according to the severity
 - Mild < 48 D
 - Moderate 48 54 D
 - Severe > 54 D

• Signs

- Direct ophthalmoscopy oil droplet reflex
- Retinoscopy irregular scissor reflex
- Slit lamp fine vertical deep stromal striae
- Epithelial iron deposits surround the base of the cone (Fleischer ring)



Diagnosis



- Signs (Cont'd)
 - Progressive corneal thinning
 - Bulging of lower lid in down-gaze (Munson sign)
- Corneal Topography
 - Irregular astigmatism



Acute hydrops

- Rupture in Descemet's membrane allows an influx of aqueous into the cornea.
- A sudden drop in visual acuity.



Associations





Systemic disorders

Down, Turner, Ehlers – Danlos syndrome, Marfan syndrome, Atopy.

Ocular associations

Vernal keratoconjunctivitis, blue sclera, Aniridia, ectopia lentis, Retinitis pigmentosa

Treatment

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Spectacles

In early cases Regular & irregular astigmatism



Rigid contact lenses

For higher degrees of astigmatism Provide a regular refracting surface Corneal cross-linking Intrastromal corneal rings

Treatment

- Keratoplasty
 - Penetrating or deep lamellar
 - Advanced progressive disease with corneal scarring
 - Clear grafts in 85% of cases



Corneal Dystrophies

A group of progressive disorders

Bilateral, genetically determined

Non-inflammatory opacifying disorders

Age at the presentation – 1st & 4th decade.

Classification

Based on biomicroscopic & histopathological features

Corneal dystrophies classified into

- Epithelial
- Bowman layer
- Stromal
- Endothelial

Classification (Cont'd)

Epithelial Dystrophies

- Epithelial basement membrane dystrophy.
- Meesman dystrophy
- Lisch dystrophy

Bowman layer dystrophy

- Reis Buckler dystrophy
- Thiel Behnke dystrophy
- Central Schnyder dystrophy

Classification (Cont'd)

- Stromal dystrophy
 - Lattice dystrophy 1
 - Lattice dystrophy 2
 - Lattice dystrophy 3 & 3A
 - Granular dystrophy type 1
 - Granular dystrophy type 2
 - Macular dystrophy
 - Gelatinous drop-like dystrophy
 - Central cloudy dystrophy of Francois

Classification (Cont'd)

- Endothelial dystrophies
 - Fuchs endothelial dystrophy
 - Posterior polymorphous dystrophy
 - Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy

Epithelial dystrophy

Epithelial basement membrane Dystrophy

- Most common dystrophy
- Sporadic, rarely AD
- Onset 2nd decade
- 10% develop recurrent corneal erosion

- Sign
 - Dot-like opacities / epithelial micro-cysts
 - A sub-epithelial map-like patterns
 - Whorled fingerprint-like lines



Granular dystrophy type 1



- Small, sharply demarcated deposits resembling crumbs, and rings in the central anterior stroma.
- Central stroma between opacities is clear.
- Deposits spread outward, but not reaching limbus



Macular Dystrophy

- Least common stromal dystrophy.
- Systemic inborn error of keratan sulfate metabolism
- Has corneal manifestations
- Inheritance AR
- Onset end of 1st decade with gradual impairment.



Fuchs endothelial dystrophy

- A bilateral disease
- Accelerated corneal endothelial cell loss
- AD
- Slowly progressive disease in old age

Stages

Cornea guttata

 Irregular warts or excrescences of Descemet's membrane are secreted by abnormal endothelial cells

Endothelial decompensation – central stromal edema



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 Persistent epithelial edema – micro-cysts & bullae (bullous keratopathy)

Treatment

- Topical
 - sodium chloride 5% drops or ointment.
- Bandage Contact lenses
 - Provide comfort by protecting exposed nerve endings.
- Penetrating Keratoplasty
 - High success rate.

Corneal Degenerations

- Any of the several tissue changes
- Occur in previously normal tissues
- As a result of prior diseases.

- Classification
 - Age-related degeneration
 - Arcus Senilis
 - Vogt limbal girdle
 - Corneal Farinata
 - Crocodile shagreen.

Lipid keratopathy

- Band keratopathy
- Spheroidal degeneration
- Salzmann nodular degeneration
- ► Terrien marginal degeneration

Arcus-Senilis

- Most Common peripheral corneal opacity
- Frequently without predisposing systemic conditions in the elderly.
- Occasionally Familial & non-familial dyslipoproteinemias.
 - Hyperlipoproteinemia type II
 - Less common type III, IV & V
- Unilateral arcus rare entity carotid disease or ocular hypotony.



Band Keratopathy (Cont'd)

- Ocular Causes
 - Chronic anterior uveitis
 - Phthisis bulbi
- Age-related
- Metabolic Causes
 - Metastatic calcification
 - Increased serum calcium & phosphorus, hyperuricemia & CRF.
- Hereditary
 - Familial cases

Band Keratopathy (Cont'd)

• Signs

- Peripheral interpalpebral calcification with the clear cornea.
- Gradual central spread to form a band-like chalky plaque.
- Contains transparent small holes



• Treatment

- Indicated if vision is threatened.
- Chelation
 - Effective for mild cases
 - Ethylene diamine tetra–acetic acid (EDTA).
- Diamond burr, Nd: YAG laser.



Learning objectives

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Thank you

