A case of intracorneal haemorrhage in a soft contact lens wearer

Chrishan Gunasekera, Vignesh Paulpandian

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

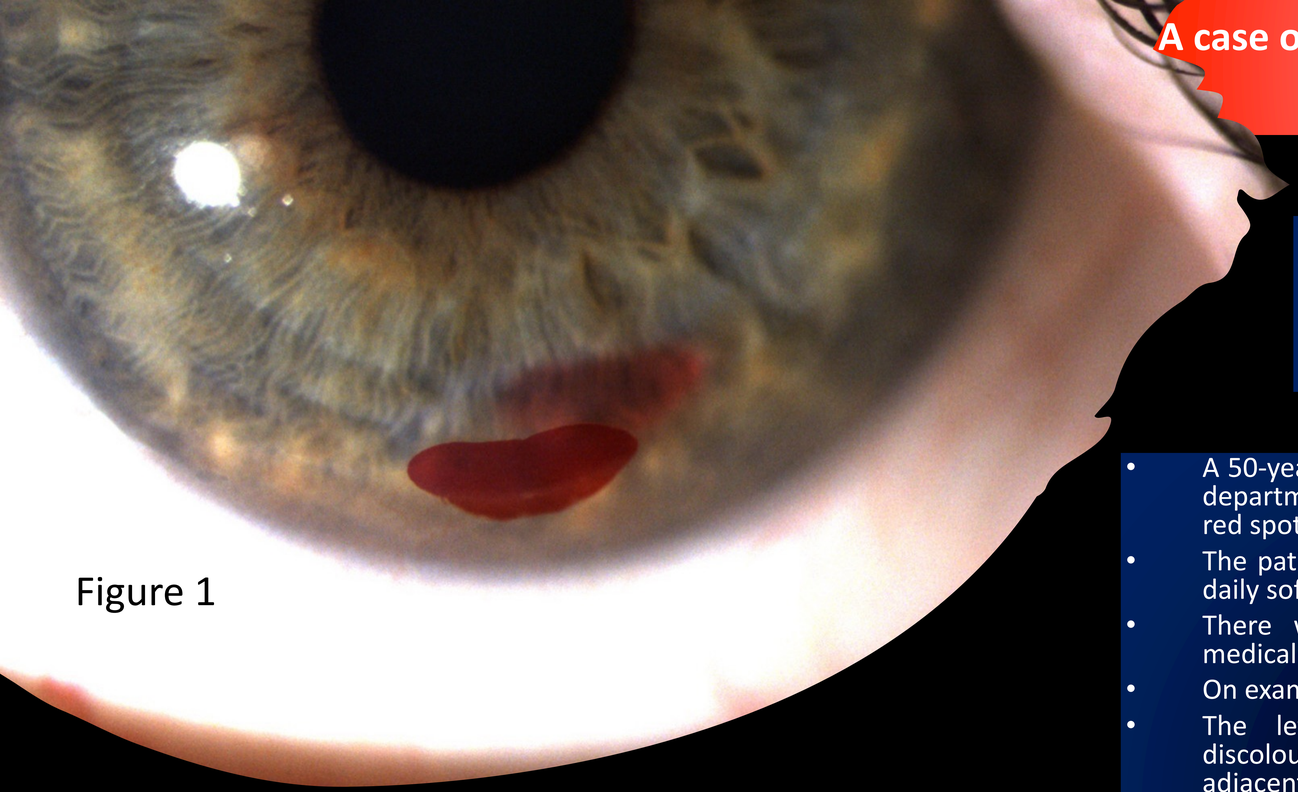


Figure 1

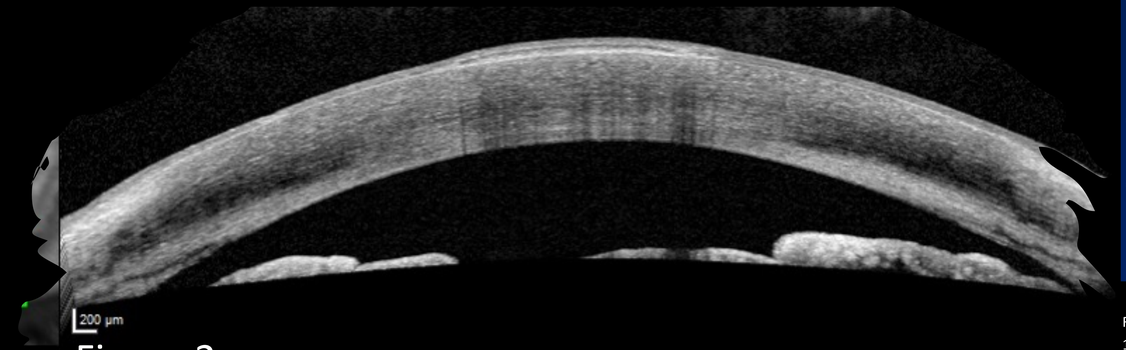


Figure 2

Background

- Intracorneal haemorrhages are usually caused by blunt trauma or secondary to surgery. [1]
- Spontaneous intracorneal haemorrhages are rare and the few cases reported are due to corneal ulceration and interstitial keratitis.[2]
- In this report we discuss a rare case of superficial intracorneal haemorrhage possibly due to soft contact lens wear.

Case report

- A 50-year-old patient presented to the emergency department with a 1-week history of noticing a red spot in her left eye (Figure 1).
- The patient denied any pain and had a history of daily soft contact lens use.
- There was no significant past ophthalmic or medical history.
- On examination visual acuity was 6/6 in both eyes.
- The left cornea had an area of reddish discolouration inferiorly measuring 2 mm by 1 mm adjacent to an area of inferior limbal neovascularisation, suggestive of an intracorneal haemorrhage.
- The haemorrhage was confined to the corneal epithelium, which was confirmed using anterior segment optical coherence tomography (AS-OCT) (Figure 2).
- The rest of the eye examination was unremarkable.
- The patient was treated with a course of topical Dexamethasone 0.1% three times a day and the haemorrhage resolved over 3 weeks.

Discussion

- Hypoxia secondary to contact lens use is known to induce corneal neovascularisation.[3]
- Mild trauma to the area of vascularisation may have cause an intracorneal haemorrhage in this case.

Conclusion

Daily contact lens wear is potentially a rare, but possible, cause of intracorneal haemorrhage especially in patients with some degree of corneal vascularisation.

REFERENCES

1. SUDHA V, BURGESS SEP Spontaneous intracorneal haemorrhage*British Journal of Ophthalmology* 1999;**83:**753
2. Giessler S, Gross M, Struck HG. Spontaneous hematocornea after keratitis of various etiology. Klin Monbl Augenheilkd. 1997 Jul;211(1):65-7. German. doi: 10.1055/s-2008-1035098.
3. Donnenfeld ED, Ingraham H, Perry HD, Imundo M, Goldberg LP. Contact lens-related deep stromal intracorneal hemorrhage. Ophthalmology. 1991 Dec;98(12):1793-6. doi: 10.1016/s0161-6420(91)32048-7.