Congenital Ciliary Hypotrichosis

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It is common to encounter hypotrichosis secondary to inflammatory or cicatricial condition of the lid margins but a congenital complete or partial lack of eyelashes and/or eyebrows is rare. Associated at times with other development defects, mostly ecto-dermal, it may appear in conjunction with general alopecia, faulty dentition, and/or cataract formation (Duke-Elder, 1952). However, as an isolated anomaly, congenital ciliary hypotrichosis is very rare. Traquair (1912) reported a case in a father and son in whom not only the eyelashes but the intermarginal area of the lower lid was absent. Urrets-Zavalea and Jimenez (1958) described a pedigree showing the transmission of a hereditary dominant type of congenital ciliary and superciliary hypotrichosis. The following case reported had congenital absence of eyelashes in the medial two third of the Right lower lid only, as an isolated anomaly. It was considered to be rare enough to be worth reporting.

Case Report

M. L., a Hindu male aged 30 years, attended the ophthalmic department in March 1964 with complaints of defective vision for distance in both eyes noticed since last few months. He also completely lacked cilia from the medial two third of the lower lid margin of the right eye (Fig. 1). The cilia of the rest of the lids were completely normal and so were the eyebrows and rest of the hair on the body. The lid margin and intermarginal strip was otherwise normal and so was the puncta, canaliculus and rest of the lachrymal passages.

The eyeballs were otherwise normal and the defective vision was corrected to 6/6 in each eye by -0.75 Dsph in right eye and -1.0 Dsph in left eye. No other physical abnormalities were present. The patient told that this absence of lashes in part of the right lower lid was present since birth and had been noticed in early infancy by his parents. There was neither any history nor any evidence on examination of any scar or previous inflammation. A search was made amongst the patient's relatives for any evidence of a similar disturbance but none was detected. A cosmetic correction was refused by the patient.

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Fig. 1, Illustrates the loss of lashes in the medial two thirds of right lower lid.

Summary

A case is described of congenital ciliary hypotrichosis involving the medial two third of the right lower lid.

Zusammenfassung

Es wird ein Fall eines angeborenen verminderten Wimpern-haarwuchses beschrieben, der sich auf die mittleren Zweidrittel des rechten Unterlides beschränkt.

Resume

Description d'un cas d'hypotrichose ciliaire congénitale des deux tiers medians de la paupière inférieure droite.

References

Duke-Elder, S.: Textbook of Ophthalmology, Vol. 5, p. 4667 (Kimpton, London 1952).

Traquair, H. M.: Quoted by Duke-Elder (1952), Ophthal. Rev. 31: 138 (1912).