Histopathology of the Dystrophia reticulata corneae of Biber-Haab-Dimmer

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(To be published in extenso elsewhere)

Summary

Lamellar keratoplasty was performed on a patient suffering from lattice corneal dystrophy, whose four children were also affected with the condition. This provided material for a histological and histochemical investigation, from which it appeared that the corneal lesions in this condition consist of foci of amyloid degeneration. The name 'hereditary amyloid degeneration of the cornea' would appear to be better for this condition.

Discussion

Alkemade: After first expressing my admiration for your beautifully carried-out investigation, I should like to ask for your explanation of the unusual linear distribution of the lesions, which are not seen in any other form of corneal dystrophy. As you speak of a local amyloidosis, have you abandoned the neuro-tropic theory of this condition, which is supported by Wolter's investigations? Have you examined the patient's skin for amyloid accumulations'?

Winkelman: We limited ourselves to the investigation of the nature and distribution of the abnormal substances in the cornea. In our investigation we have not been concerned with the question whether the unusual lines are corneal nerves or not; we consider that no final answer to this question has yet been given. Local amyloidosis

however

does not rule out this possibility: amyloid can also occur in the neurilemma of nerves. We have not as yet performed skin biopsies but are intending to do so.