



Case report

A simple lens-sparing technique to treat hypotonic maculopathy secondary to large cyclodialysis



Masayo Kimura, Tsutomu Yasukawa*, Yuichiro Ogura

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Nagoya, Japan

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Hypotonic maculopathy secondary to cyclodialysis often persists and causes irreversible visual loss despite a variety of treatments proposed. The purpose of this study is to report two cases with persistent hypotonic maculopathy due to a large cyclodialysis cleft treated with a simple, lens-sparing technique of external drainage, diathermy, and suturing under the placement of an infusion cannula.

Observations: Both patients had sustained blunt trauma to one eye, causing persisting hypotonic maculopathy. One eye was phakic. The ciliary body was totally detached with a large cyclodialysis cleft. After half-thickness scleral flaps were made and a 25-gauge infusion cannula was placed at the pars plana, external drainage was performed. Transscleral diathermy and interrupted suturing also were done.

Results: In both cases, the ciliary detachment promptly improved and the intraocular pressure normalized after transient elevation for a few days. No adverse events were observed.

Conclusions and importance: We successfully treated two cases with hypotonic maculopathy by a simple technique with an infusion cannula. This procedure is simple, immediately effective, less invasive, and applicable to all cases including phakic eyes.

1. Introduction

Hypotonic maculopathy can develop secondary to cyclodialysis in eyes with blunt ocular trauma and intraocular surgeries. An external force disrupts the circumferential insertion of the meridional ciliary muscle fibers into the scleral spur causing a cyclodialysis cleft.¹ When a ciliary detachment occurs due to abnormal aqueous humor outflow to the suprachoroidal space through a cleft, subsequent hypotony leads to choroidal detachment, retinal vascular tortuosity, and retinal folds, and in more severe and persistent cases, hypotonic maculopathy and optic disc edema.

In cases refractory to medical management, laser photocoagulation, transscleral diathermy, cryotherapy, direct cyclohexy and other suture-based techniques, sulcus fixation of the intraocular lens, scleral buckling, and vitrectomy have been performed.^{2–7} However, with less invasive procedures, the success rate is lower. In addition, invasive techniques may result in vitreous hemorrhages and expulsive hemorrhages. We report a new, less invasive technique to reattach the ciliary body by placement of an infusion cannula at the pars plana and external drainage of the suprachoroidal fluid.

2. Findings

Case 1: A 45-year-old man sustained blunt trauma to his left eye playing baseball and was referred to a private clinic. Subsequently, hyphema and commotio retinae were observed. After hyphema resolution, hypotonic maculopathy was seen. Systemic prednisolone and topical cycloplegic eye drops (atropine) were ineffective after 1 month, and he presented to our hospital. The best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA) of the left eye was 20/40. Large cyclodialysis with a 270-degree cleft, total ciliary detachment, chorioretinal folds, tortuous retinal vessels, and optic disc edema were observed (Fig. 1). Since the lens was intact, long-bite transscleral suturing without a scleral flap was performed at each quadrant with an absorbable monofilament suture (6–0 PDS, Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson, Tokyo, Japan). Postoperatively, anterior-segment optical coherence tomography showed less suprachoroidal fluid but persistent hypotony with no BCVA improvement. Ciliary detachment relapsed 2 months after the first surgery with suture biodegradation. A second surgery was scheduled.

Case 2: A 51-year-old man was referred to our hospital for a chronic traumatic cyclodialysis in his right eye. He sustained blunt trauma when hit with a baseball and subsequent traumatic cataract 16 months

* Corresponding author. Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, 1 Kawasumi, Mizuho-cho, Mizuho-ku, Nagoya, Aichi 467-8601, Japan.

E-mail address: yasukawa@med.nagoya-cu.ac.jp (T. Yasukawa).

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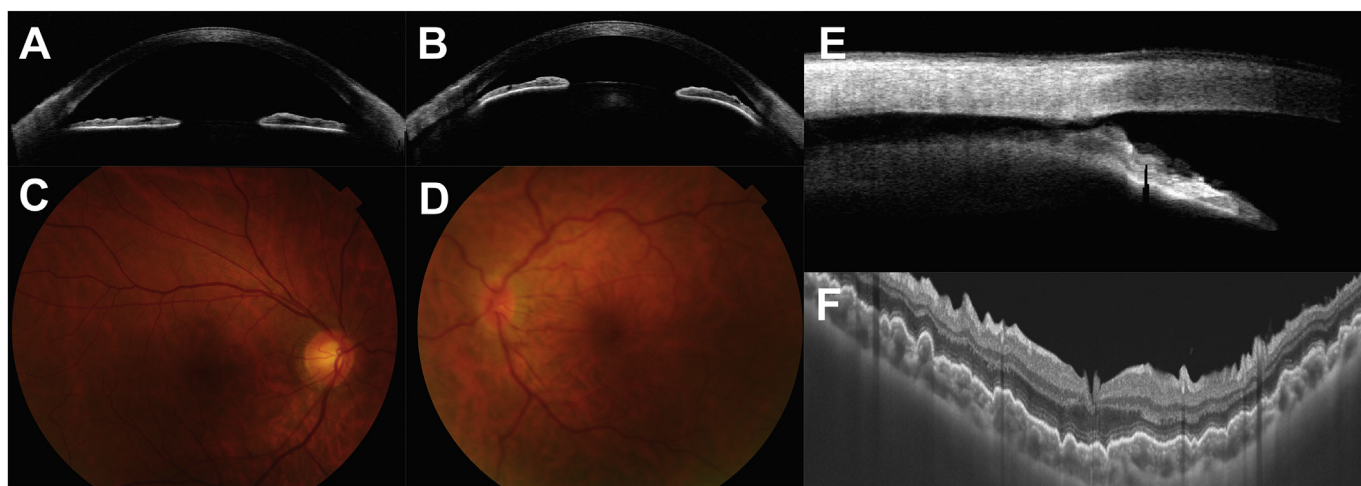


Fig. 1. Eyes of the first case at the first visit. Images of optical coherence tomography of the right eye (A) and the left eye (B,E,F) and fundus photographs of the right eye (C) and the left eye (D) depicted that the anterior chamber of the left eye was shallow and a cyclodialysis cleft and ciliary body detachment were observed, accompanying tortuosity of retinal vessels and choroidal folds.

previously. Fourteen months later, cataract surgery with a capsular tension ring was performed because of cataract progression with subluxation, causing postoperative hypotonic maculopathy refractory to medical treatment. Upon presentation to our hospital, the BCVA was 20/60. Cyclodialysis with a 90- to 120-degree cleft at the upper side, total ciliary detachment, chorioretinal folds, and tortuous retinal vessels were detected. A surgery was planned.

Surgical procedures for both cases (Fig. 2): The conjunctiva was dissected, and a 2x4-mm half-thickness scleral flap 2 mm posterior to

the limbus was made at all quadrants in case 1 and at the upper quadrants in case 2. Before placing a 25-gauge infusion cannula, the intraocular pressure (IOP) was increased by intravitreal injection of balanced salt solution (BSS PLUS® intraocular irrigating solution kit; Alcon, Tokyo, Japan) with a 30-gauge needle. Then perpendicular one-step insertion of 25-gauge trocar-cannula at the pars plana was performed to avoid suprachoroidal irrigation. After placing a 25-gauge infusion cannula and increasing the IOP to 60 mmHg, external drainage of the suprachoroidal fluid was undertaken by radial scleral incision at

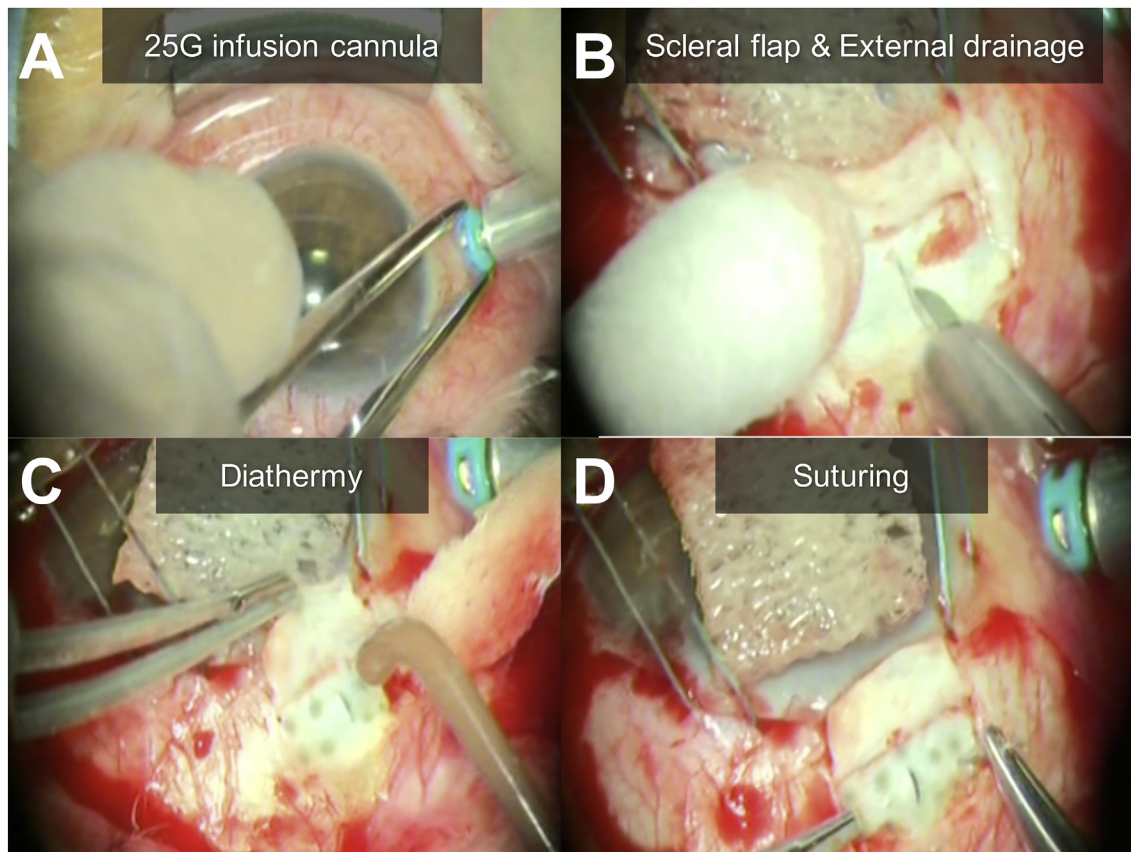


Fig. 2. Surgical procedure. A. 25G infusion cannula was placed to increase the intraocular pressure and enhance the external drainage. B. External drainage was performed at the scleral flap base. C. Diathermy was carried out. D. An interrupted suture was placed.

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