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Oculo-Cutaneous Albinism

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Clinical Image

A 56-year-old man with Oculo-Cutaneous Albinism (OCA) complained of gradually decreasing vision in the left eye. He had fair skin and blond hair and cilia. On examination, his visual acuity was 20/300 in the right eye and hand motions in the left eye. He had bilateral iris trans-illumination defects, grade II nuclear opalescence, and pendular nystagmus. None of the family members had nystagmus. Phacoemulsification with three-piece posterior chamber intraocular lens was performed under topical anesthesia in the left eye. Postoperatively, visual acuity in the left eye improved to 20/200. Slit lamp bio-microscopic examination on retro illumination shows a well-centered acrylic intraocular lens in the capsular bag (Figure 1). OCA is an autosomal recessive disorder caused by mutations in genes that control the synthesis of melanin within the melanocytes. 1 in 20,000 people worldwide are born with oculo-cutaneous albinism. Foveal hypoplasia is the major cause of diminution of vision since childhood, but development of cataract in such patients can be visually impairing leading to progressive decrease in vision. We believe cataract surgery with IOL implantation although challenging is beneficial in the treatment of cataracts in patients with oculo-cutaneous albinism.

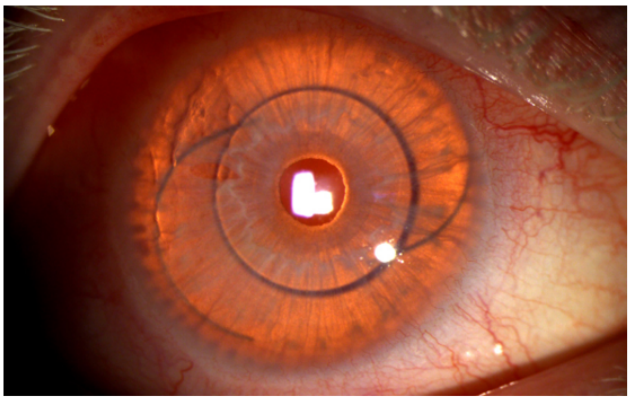

Figure 1: A well-centered acrylic intraocular lens in the capsular bag.

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None.