

BILATERAL CATARACTS AFTER PSORALEN AND LONG-WAVE ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION(PUVA) TREATMENT FOR PSORIASIS

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Purpose: To report a case of bilateral cataracts in one young patient of psoriasis treated with PUVA which induced severe impairment of visual acuity.

Method: Case report.

Results: A 35-year-old male of psoriasis received oral 8-MOP (8-methoxypsoralen) photo-chemotherapy and exposed to ultraviolet A for 8 years. Recently his best corrected vision were 6/60 in the both eyes on ocular examination. The slit lamp microscopy showed bilateral dense posterior sub-capsular opacity. Clear cornea incision wound of phacoemulsification combined with foldable IOL implantation was performed one by one. Three months later, his bilateral bare visual acuity returned to 6/6 and no other ocular complications were found during the 6 months follow-up.

Conclusion: The efficacy of oral psoralen and long wave ultraviolet A radiation (known as PUVA) were popularly used as the treatment for psoriasis. Unfortunately, UVA is largely absorbed by the lens. Oral administered 8-MOP also diffuses in the lens and binds irreversible with DNA molecules and lens proteins. Long-term risks of PUVA including cataracts are relatively rare found in young people. The ocular symptoms may be neglected by the patients of psoriasis. The best method of minimizing the cataract formation is reminding them of the importance of wearing UVA-block protective sunglasses.

Key Words: Psoriasis, Cataracts, Sunglasses

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