

BEE STING TO THE CORNEA--A REPORT OF THREE CASES

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Purpose: We present three cases of bee sting of cornea and follow up the visual outcome after treatment with topical antibiotics and steroid. Besides, the pharmacologic contents and damaging mechanisms of the venom are discussed after reviewing the published literatures.

Methods: Case reports

Results: Topic steroid and antibiotics were prescribed in all three eyes. Herein, the visual acuity of all three cases were satisfying without any visual-threatening sequela one month after treatment.

Conclusion: The ocular injury after bee sting of cornea may lead to striate keratitis, corneal ulcer, iritis, lens subluxation and so on. Generally, the visual outcome of bee sting of the cornea seems to be satisfying with the adequate treatment in time.

Key words: Bee sting, the venom, ocular trauma

INTRODUCTION

Bee sting of the cornea is an uncommon condition. The incidence of bee sting depends on the species of bee involved, the geographical location and season of the year.¹ In general, ocular damage results from chitinous sting and venom toxicity. Ocular injury may lead to striate keratitis, bullous keratitis, corneal edema, iritis, hyphema, iris atrophy, cataractous change, lens subluxation, secondary glaucoma, optic atrophy, papilloedema and retrobulbar neuritis.^{1,2,3,4,5,6}

We report three cases of bee sting of cornea and

review the clinical response and the pharmacology of bee venom.

CASE REPORT

Case 1

An otherwise healthy 60-year-old male presented to our emergency department with symptoms of pain and tearing in the left eye due to a bee sting two hours before.

The initial ocular examination revealed a best corrected visual acuity of 40/200 in the left eye. Slit-lamp examination of the left eye revealed eyelid swelling, con-

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