Differentiating Between a Silicone Oil Bubble and a Dislocated Intraocular Lens

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ABSTRACT
This article aims to demonstrate how a silicone oil bubble can be mistaken for a dislocated intraocular lens. An 80-year-old gentleman was referred by his optometrist with the diagnosis of dislocated IOL in a pseudophakic eye. Eye examination revealed a silicone oil bubble from previous retinal detachment surgery and that the lens was in situ. In conclusion, a history of retinal detachment surgery should alert one that an oil bubble can be misinterpreted as a dislocated IOL.

KEY WORDS: silicone oil; intraocular lens and dislocation.

INTRODUCTION
Silicone oil is used in ophthalmic surgery to reattach the retina. Unlike air and gas it does not absorb by the surrounding tissue, requiring its removal to prevent complications such as cataract, keratopathy and glaucoma. The optimal period for removal is still subject to debate and should be decided on a case-by-case basis, but it is currently thought to be between 3 and 6 months if the retina is stable.1

Late dislocation of the intraocular lens (IOL) following cataract surgery occurs in 0.2-3% of the cases.2 Risk factors for this complication include pseudoexfoliation, uveitis, trauma, vitrectomy and increased axial length.2

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Financial disclosure: The authors would like to acknowledge that there was no financial or commercial interest involved in the development of this work.

Accepted: 27 July 2009

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doi:10.3921/joptom.2009.165

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