Differentiating Between a Silicone Oil Bubble and a Dislocated Intraocular Lens

Kate E. Shipman and C.K. Patel

ABSTRACT
This article aims to demonstrate how a silicone oil bubble can be misinterpreted as 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.

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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 but it is currently thought to be between 3 and 6 months if the retina is stable.

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

From the Oxford Eye Hospital, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington Oxford, (United Kingdom).

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Corresponding author: Kate E. Shipman, 24 Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2NR, Headington Oxford, (United Kingdom)

E-mail: kate.shipman@doctors.net.uk

REFERENCES

FIGURE 1
Colour photograph of the anterior chamber of the eye showing the intra-ocular lens and revealing the presence of a silicone oil bubble.