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Snow Flakes In Summer

Running Title: Phacolytic Glaucoma

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CASE

A 70-year-old female visited our hospital last summer with a history of painless, progressive diminution of vision in the left eye for the the past 1 years. She complained of developing sudden pain in the left eye for the past three days. There was no other significant history. The significant findings on her left eye examination was a visual acuity of perception of light with accurate projection of rays, corneal edema, hypermature cataract seen through a hazy media, deep anterior chamber and floating white lens particles looking like minute snow flakes filling the aqueous and forming a pseudohypyon (figure 1).



The anterior capsule of the lens was intact and angles were open as seen through a hazy media. There were no keratic precipitates. Intraocular pressure was 45 mm Hg in the left eye. A diagnosis of phacolytic glaucoma was made. Her right eye was within normal limits. She underwent manual small incision cataract extraction with a posterior chamber intraocular lens implantation in the left eye after her intraocular pressure was controlled medically.

DISCUSSION

Phacolytic glaucoma is characterised by an acute rise in intraocular pressure associated with hypermature cataracts. The pathogenesis is microleakage of lens proteins through an intact anterior lens capsule causing an inflammatory response and blockage of trabecular meshwork by protein-laden macrophages and inflammatory debris.[1] The definitive treatment for phacolytic glaucoma is cataract extraction.[2]

REFERENCES

1. Khandelwal R. Ocular snow storm: an unusual presentation of phacolytic glaucoma. *BMJ Case Reports* 2012; doi:10.1136/bcr-2012-006330.
2. Venkatesh R, Tan CS, Kumar TT, Ravindran RD. Safety and efficacy of manual small incision cataract surgery