Surgical Retina

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN VISION AFTER PATCHING IN A YOUNG CHILD WITH PERSISTENT PRIMARY FETAL VASCULATURE, LOCALISED TRACTIONAL RETINAL DETACHMENT AND SEVERE AMBLYOPIA

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PURPOSE: We describe a case of severe amblyopia in a 5-year-old child with persistent primary fetal vasculature (PPFV) and macula-off retinal detachment, whose vision improved significantly after patching.

METHODS: A 5-year-old female child was referred to our clinic for right eye amblyopia. She had no significant past medical history. At presentation, Snellen visual acuity was 6/120 in her right eye and 6/6 in her left. Examination of her right eye revealed PPFV and an inferior retinal coloboma, associated with an inferior localised macula-off tractional retinal detachment with two secondary retinal breaks inferior to the optic disc. She had poor binocularity, evidenced by the presence of right dissociated vertical deviation with manifest and latent nystagmus. Options of surgical and conservative management were offered but parents declined surgical intervention. She was prescribed full-time glasses with patching of the unaffected eye for 2 hours per day.

RESULTS: Over the next 7 years, with adherence to full-time glasses and patching, her best corrected visual acuity improved to 6/6. Her retinal detachment remained stable. We postulate that the improvement in visual acuity was likely due to the development of an eccentric fixation.

CONCLUSION: In young patients with dense amblyopia associated with persistent fetal vasculature, early intervention and adherence to patching may improve the final visual acuity with the development of eccentric fixation.

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