

# Congenital Cyst Eye, One Clinical Case

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**To cite this article:**

Souhail H., Ifrkhas S., Laktaoui A.. Congenital Cyst Eye, One Clinical Case. *Journal of Surgery*. Vol. 3, No. 3, 2015, pp. 18-20.

doi: 10.11648/j.js.20150303.11

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**Abstract:** *Background:* Congenital cyst eye is developmental abnormal arrangement of tissues .It is an extremely rare ocular malformation and is the rare cystic orbital lesion, usually evident at birth and has a varied presentation. A partial or complete failure in the involution of the primary optic vesicle resulting in the formation of a cyst. *Case presentation:* We report a case of unilateral congenital cystic eye, it was excised completely, and histopathology was confirmed the cystic nature of lesion. *Conclusion:* congenital cystic eye should be suspected in infants with an unrecognizable ocular globe. It is an extremely rare condition and with only 40 previous cases reported in the literature.

**Keywords:** Congenital, Cyst Eye

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## 1. Introduction

Congenital cyst eye is developmental abnormal arrangement of tissues. It is an extremely rare ocular malformation and is the rare cystic orbital lesion, usually evident at birth and has a varied presentation. A partial or complete failure in the involution of the primary optic vesicle resulting in the formation of a cyst, with fewer than 40 cases reported. At the best of our knowledge, congenital cystic eye can be defined as a non-hereditary disorder of unknown origin. The disorder is most commonly unilateral, but bilateral congenital cystic eyeball has been recognized by Sacks et al. [1]. They investigated the central visual pathways in bilateral congenital cystic eye and evidenced that the intracranial portion of one optic nerve represented a remnant of the optic stalk and no chiasm was found. The malformation is usually present at birth or may become apparent later in childhood. The congenital cystic eye may be cystic or solid and the cyst may vary in size in relation to the patency of the stalk, and may be single or multiple. Connective tissue lined by neuroglial material composes the wall of the congenital cystic eye. The ocular structures derived from surface ectoderm, as lens or cornea, is lacking and the extra-ocular muscle surrounding the malformation may be normal or defective. Congenital cystic eye may be isolated or associated with intra or extra-ocular malformations [2]. The most common intraocular malformation described in association with congenital cystic eye is microphthalmia with cyst [3], as a rare entity cataloged

on the spectrum of colobomatous eye disorders. Persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous in the fellow eye [4], dermal appendages [5], eyelid coloboma have been also recognized in association with congenital cystic eye. Systemic associations [6] include saddle nose, facial clefting, nostril malformation, choanal atresia, malformation of the sphenoid bone and other neurological abnormalities. We report a case of unilateral congenital cystic eye, it was excised completely, and histopathology was confirmed the cystic nature of lesion.

## 2. Case Report



**Figure 1.** Presence of a mass swollen and blue in the lower right eyelid.

A 7 year old female child born with a congenital cyst eye. of non consanguinous parents. The examination find a fleshy

mass in the right eye, the upper lid appeared ballooned and a reddish pink mass was bulging out (figure 1). The mass was soft, cystic in consistency, translucent, non tender, non pulsatile, non reducible. The left eye and Rest of the examination was normal. The patient underwent surgery. An anterior orbitotomy approach was used to excise the orbital mass while preserving the eyelids; histopathology confirmed the diagnosis. An orbital implant was also placed in the orbit keeping the future orbital growth in mind (figure 2, 3).



**Figure 2.** The appearance after ablation the mass.



**Figure 3.** The appearance after the introduction of the provisional aesthetic prosthetic eye.

### 3. Discussion

The term congenital cystic eye was introduced by Ida Mann in 1937 for a cavity lined by neuroglial tissue [7]. It is an extremely rare ocular malformation and is the rare cystic orbital lesion [8, 9, 10, 11], usually evident at birth and has a varied presentation. Where the eye fails to develop correctly in utero and is replaced by benign, fluid-filled tissue. The exact aetiology of congenital cystic eye remains unknown [10, 11] genetic investigations performed in few cases have not yielded any peculiar defects [12, 13, 14], the frequent presence of inflammatory cells in the cyst suggests an inflammatory cause [10, 11, 15, 16]. It is thought to result from non invagination of the primary optic nerve vesicle between the 2 mm and 7 mm stages of the embryonic development [16], and ectodermal elements do not develop into the future eye structures. The orbit thus contains a cyst

instead of an eye. The cyst is usually completely filled by proliferating glial tissue [8, 9, 10, 11]. This abnormality is commonly unilateral as our case, though bilateral cases or microphthalmia with cyst of the fellow eye are described [8, 9, 10].

There is no standardized protocol for management of the congenital cystic eye [14]. Surgical intervention is strongly advised in order to obtain an optimal cosmetic. Regarding timing of surgery, cystic globes have been excised within a week to several years after the birth. After excision, Chaudry et al. [17] achieved acceptable cosmesis by fitting prosthesis, while Mansour et al. [18] performed the excision of a congenital cystic eye at the age of seven months without the use of an implant and the conjunctival fornix was fitted with progressively larger spheres. Robb et al. [19] reported a case of congenital cystic eye in which an initial attempt for excision was followed by recurrence of the cyst in the orbit after three months. Based on their experience, they concluded that every effort should be made to totally excise the congenital cystic eye when surgical removal is undertaken, due to the risk of recurrence[14]. for us also the concern was cosmetic, after orbitotomy and excision the orbital mass was tried to preserving the eyelids and put the prosthetic eye.

The histologic appearance is variable from one case to another. The cyst is usually limited by a fibrous tissue dense, resembling the sclera, in which tissue muscle and fat are linked. The interior the cyst is bordered by immature retinal tissue [8, 9].

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