

Failed Xen Gel Stent Secondary to Proximal End Occlusion with Iris Pigment Epithelium

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Purpose

Xen stent is a new surgical device and there is a paucity of data on its complications. A failed Xen secondary to proximal end obstruction with iris pigment epithelium is described.

Methods

A 69 years-old male Caucasian male, phakic, a case of primary open angle glaucoma patient had an IOP of 10-12 mmHg (no medication) for more than 6 months following Xen implantation OS. Then, the IOP rose to 20 mmHg and a shallow bleb was observed in examination. There was no obstruction at the anterior chamber end in gonioscopy. A bleb needling was performed to address the subconjunctival and episcleral fibrosis. No change was observed in the bleb morphology and the Xen fractured. A bleb revision was done and no flow was observed through the Xen even after overfilling the anterior chamber with balanced salt solution. The Xen was explanted and a trabeculectomy performed.

Results

The explanted and broken parts of Xen were sent to pathology department for microscopic evaluation. High magnification photography revealed that the proximal end (the end in anterior chamber) was occluded with a clump of iris pigment epithelium. The IOP 3 months after trabeculectomy was 10 mmHg.

Conclusion

Xen failure is mainly secondary to subconjunctival or episcleral fibrosis. To address this issue a bleb needling or open revision is recommended. In this case the cause of failure was occlusion of the proximal end with iris pigment epithelium.