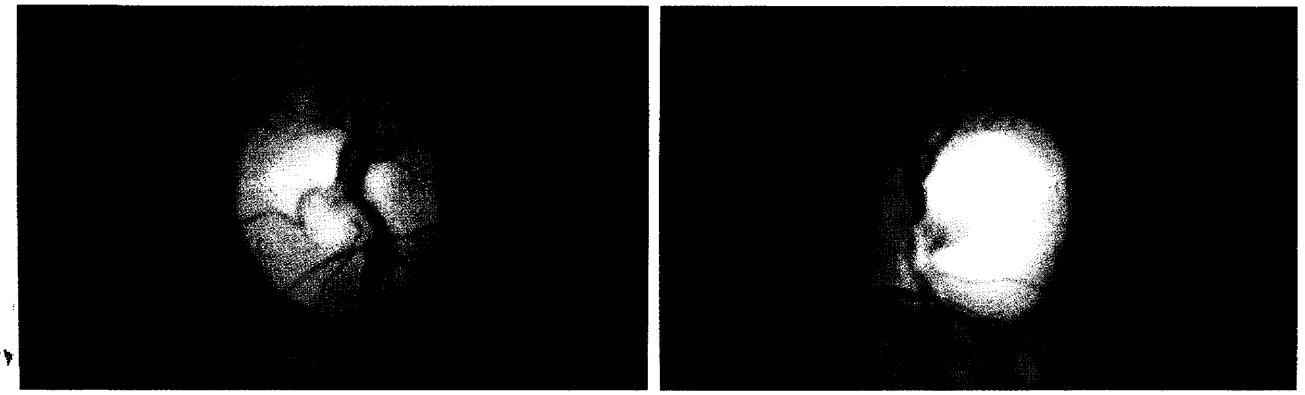

Figure 4. *Fifteen-degree disc photographs of the right (left) and left (right) eyes. Note cup-to-disc asymmetry.*

the right eye showed a normal central 30° field. The field of the left eye revealed an inferior nasal step and early superior arcuate scotoma.

Our impression was uniocular open-angle glaucoma associated with the nevus of Ota, and therapy consisting of 0.5% timolol twice daily in the left eye was started. Over a subsequent follow-up of 12 months, the intraocular pressure has remained in the midteens with use of timolol alone, and there has been no progression of glaucomatous disc or field.

COMMENT

The nevus of Ota (oculodermal melanocytosis) is an abnormally large accumulation of melanocytes in ocular tissues as well as the skin in the distribution of the trigeminal nerve. It is almost always unilateral. Ocular manifestations include episcleral pigmentation, hyperchromic heterochromia iridis, increased pigmentation of anterior chamber angle structures, and increased choroidal pigmentation. Other less common findings include conjunctival, tarsal, and corneal pigmentation, pigment on the anterior lens capsule, and optic disc pigmentation.[1] Cutaneous manifestations are usually confined to the ophthalmic and maxillary divisions of the trigeminal nerve.

Elevated intraocular pressure, the most common serious complication of oculodermal melanocytosis, was seen in approximately 10% of patients in one series.[1] Several glaucoma mechanisms have been described, including congenital glaucoma, acute angle-closure glaucoma, uveitis, and open-angle glaucoma, although obstruction of aqueous outflow by accumulated melanocytes in an open angle is the most likely mechanism directly associated with the nevus of Ota.[2]

Transformation to malignant melanoma is the most serious complication and has been reported in several white patients. Most melanomas are of choroidal origin, although one iris melanoma and several orbital melanomas have been reported.[3-5]

Selected from Arch Ophthalmol. *1995;113:1208-1209. Photo Essay.*

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