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Sir,

Aggarwal *et al.*¹ have performed a valuable service in alerting ophthalmologists to the dangers of topical facial steroids causing glaucoma. In this context, it is also pertinent to mention the other cause of extensive visual loss from topical steroids, namely that of cataract.

Although systemic steroids have been implicated in cataract formation for many years,² it is less well known that other steroid preparations³⁻⁵ have been associated with cataract formation. Costagliola *et al.*⁶ have reported 3 patients who developed posterior subcapsular cataracts following the topical use of fluoromethalone 0.25% paste for 2 years, as a treatment for psoriasis. Before embarking on treatment, the 3 patients had undergone a slit lamp examination and were found to be free from cataract.

Although the formation of cataracts with the use of top-

ical steroid preparations is not common, ophthalmologists and prescribers of cutaneous steroid preparations must be alerted to the possibility.

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