

References

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A Sharma¹, M Jofre-Bonet², M Panca², J Lawrenson³ and I Murdoch¹

¹Department of Genetics, Institute of Ophthalmology, London, UK

²Department of Economics, City University London, London, UK

³Department of Optometry and Visual Science, City University London, London, UK
E-mail: anu1478@hotmail.co.uk

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Sir,

An unexpected complication of behavioural vision therapy

Behavioural vision therapy is a branch of optometry that attempts to improve visual efficiency through the prescription of treatments such as hand-eye co-ordination activities. Here we report an unfortunate adverse event associated with such therapy.

Case report

A 43-year-old female, presented to the Gold Coast Hospital, Queensland suffering a large, vertical, ragged, and shelved corneal laceration, which occurred while assisting her son to perform a behavioural vision therapy exercise. The vision therapy task belonged to a group of vision therapies known as 'visual-motor integration' activities, promoted for the treatment of reading dysfunction. To perform the exercise, the patient is instructed to attach a tennis ball to a string (via a hook previously screwed into the tennis ball) and hang the string from the ceiling. The task for the patient's son was to gently strike the ball with a wooden rolling pin, which is ringed by coloured bands. Using different sequences of colours, the ball is hit towards a target held by his mother. During the activity, the tennis ball came free of the screw, and the screw (still attached to the string) recoiled against the patient's right eye.

Surgical repair was undertaken and at the most recent review, 1 month following the initial injury, pinhole visual acuity was R 6/18.

Comment

Behavioural optometry is concerned with visual dysfunction that proponents believe can exist despite the presence of good visual acuity, no refractive error or ocular disease, normal accommodation, normal binocular vision, and normal ocular motility.¹ Examples of behavioural vision therapy tasks include hand-eye co-ordination activities, coloured overlay lenses, trampolines, or balance boards. A recent critical appraisal of vision therapy by Barrett² found no significant evidence to support the vast majority of behavioural management approaches advocated by behavioural optometrists, a similar finding to an earlier review by Jennings, 2000.³

Our patient was unfortunate to suffer a severe penetrating eye injury while helping her son perform a task of uncertain benefit to his visual development. Any equipment used for such exercises should be as safe as possible to minimise the potential harms of therapy. The use of exercises in which balls are propelled at against a flat surface should be certainly be appraised in this light.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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B Drury and F Imrie

Department of Ophthalmology, Gold Coast Hospital, Southport, Queensland, Australia
E-mail: brett.drury1@gmail.com

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Sir,

Snailtrack corneal changes following subconjunctival injection of 5-fluorouracil

We report snailtrack-like corneal changes occurring after subconjunctival injection of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) around a trabeculectomy bleb.

Case report

A 50-year-old male with advanced glaucoma underwent an uncomplicated right-sided trabeculectomy,