

of macula-involving TRAO, and may have supported a diagnosis in case 1.<sup>2</sup>

The mechanism underlying TRAO is unknown. If vasospasm or thromboembolism was responsible, it is conceivable that retinal ischaemia may persist beyond the specific occlusive episode and may be detectable on ERG or mfERG. It is also possible that reperfusion after prolonged TRAO would produce ERG changes, although we are not aware of this having been studied in human subjects.

Although a normal ERG may not exclude TRAO, it may therefore be considered in suspected TRAO when OCT findings are inconclusive or where persistent retinal ischaemia is suspected.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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### Sir, The effectiveness of asking multiple questions at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress

I had the pleasure of attending four full days of the Royal College Congress at Birmingham last year, including the retina day. I had noted in previous years that those audience members asking more than one question following a presentation, without waiting for an answer in between questions, as a rule did not have satisfactory answers to all the questions. I determined at this Congress to see whether this indeed was the case.

Over the 4 days of Congress I observed 106 audience interactions with speakers, including the rapid fire sessions, in a variety of different-sized gatherings. Where audience members asked more than one question having waited for an answer before asking another question, each question was regarded as a separate interaction. Of these interactions, 87 involved one question per interaction, of which 85 were answered by the speaker (97.7%). Fifteen audience interactions involved asking two questions at once, of which 15 had at least one question answered and 7 both questions answered (46.7%). Two interactions involved three questions asked at once, one of which resulted in two questions answered and the other with only one question answered, resulting in none having had all three questions answered (0.0%). A further two interactions were difficult to classify due to the nature of the questions and disregarded.

Asking questions in a public setting such as Congress can be said to have two purposes. Primarily it may be regarded as a data gathering exercise on behalf of the questioner but secondly, the asking of questions may be to convey a message to the audience and the speaker's answer is a secondary consideration. Assuming that the asking of questions is mainly for the receipt of information, this analysis would suggest that the best strategy would be to ask questions individually and only ask further questions once a satisfactory answer is received as only 46.7% had both questions answered when asked together. It may be argued that asking two questions at once may be a better strategy due to time constraints and a desire on behalf of the chairperson to be fair to a broad section of the audience reducing the chance of a single member of the audience being able to ask more than a single question. However, if this were indeed the case, asking two or more questions at once can be deemed both ineffective and unfair, and perhaps should be discouraged at future Congresses in order to use the time most efficiently.

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