

CASE REPORT

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BILATERAL SYMMETRIC CORNEAL EPITHELIAL DEFECTS AS A PRESENTING FEATURE OF DRUG TOXICITY

ABSTRACT

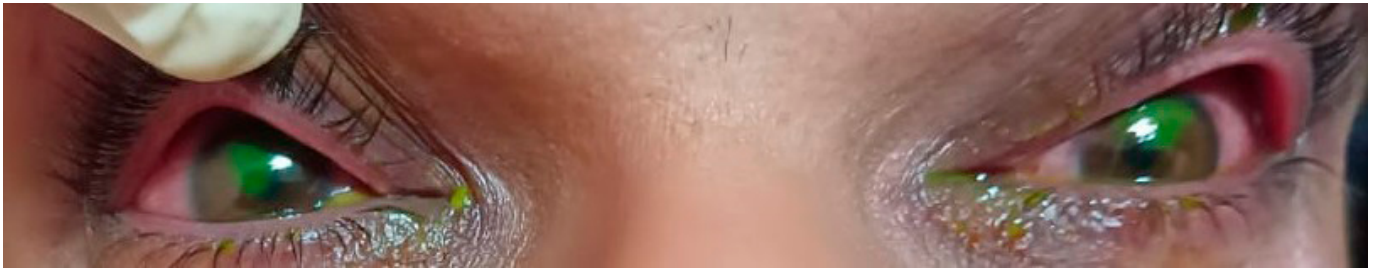
We report a case of bilateral corneal epithelial defect in a 30 year old male after the intake of single tablet of fixed drug combination (FDC) Ofloxacin plus Ornidazole. Ocular toxicity secondary to these drugs is a rare entity.

CASE

A 30-year-old male, reported to us with a history of inability to fully open both his eyes along with watering and photophobia for the past one day.

There was a history of self-consumption of a single tablet of fixed drug combination (FDC) Ofloxacin plus Ornidazole (for his loose stools) eight hours prior to his ocular symptoms. There was no other significant history. His best corrected visual acuity was 6/9 in both his eyes. Dilated fundus examination, colour vision, intraocular pressure and ocular movements were within normal limits. Bilateral slit lamp examination revealed symmetric corneal epithelial defects measuring 4mm by 3mm in the superior half (**Figure 1**), with no other abnormalities.

The patient refused patching of his eyes and was given Tropicamide 1% eye drops stat plus one hourly preservative free ocular lubricating gel along with chloramphenicol eye ointment twice a day. The patient showed near complete resolution of his epithelial defect on the second day, and by the third day, his cornea was totally clear. His complete blood profile along with general physical examination and systemic examination was within normal limits.

**FIGURE 1***Bilateral corneal lesions*

Drug hypersensitivity syndrome is a distinct type of adverse drug reaction. Various drugs implicated are phenytoin, carbamazepine, lamotrigine, primidone, dapsone, terbinafine, allopurinol, cyclosporine, captopril, felbamate, metronidazole etc. Drug hypersensitivity can involve various organs like skin, liver, muscle, kidney, heart, lung etc. ⁽¹⁾

Ofloxacin belongs to the quinolone group of drugs which are antimicrobials while Ornidazole is a nitroimidazole which is antibacterial and antiprotozoal drug used to treat anaerobic enteric protozoa. ⁽²⁾

Ofloxacin-Ornidazole FDC induced pancreatitis, ⁽³⁾ and fixed drug eruptions due to Ornidazole ⁽⁴⁾ has been reported in literature.

Not much has been reported regarding corneal toxicity of Ofloxacin-Ornidazole individually or in combination. Punctate epithelial erosions with the use of tinidazole, another nitroimidazole group of drugs, ⁽⁵⁾ and Ornidazole induced Stevens–Johnson syndrome causing ocular involvement ⁽⁶⁾ is found in literature.

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