

Periocular Hair Growth Caused by Treatment with Travoprost for Glaucoma

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Case report

Proper diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma is of utmost important to avoid loss of vision. Travoprost is a prostaglandin analogue used for the treatment of glaucoma. An adverse effect to the treatment with travoprost is hair growth (1, 2).

We report here a 54-year-old Greenlandic Inuit who was diagnosed with raised intraocular pressure and started local treatment with timolol eye drops. After treatment with the adrenergic non-selective B-receptorblocker timolol, the eye pressure was still increased, and treatment with travoprost eyedrops was added.

At control the eye pressure had normalized. After 2 months the patient complained of undesired hair growth at the lateral

side of her eyes (Fig.1). The patient reported that the eye drops often run out of the eye at that side.

Travoprost treatment was discontinued, and the patient removed the hairs with a forceps. Four months later no new hair growth had occurred. When contact between travoprost eye drops and the skin is minimized, extraocular hair growth probably can be avoided.

The presented case illustrates undesired periocular hair growth as an adverse effect to travoprost treatment for glaucoma. Other adverse effects to topical treatment with prostaglandin analogues have been reported (1). Hair growth as an effect to prostaglandin analogue treatment is used by some to stimulate growth of eye lashes (2).



Fig. 1. A 54-year-old woman with glaucoma.

Conclusions

- Proper diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma is of utmost important to avoid loss of vision.
- The prostaglandin analogue travoprost is used for the treatment of glaucoma.
- Topical treatment with travoprost eye drops may cause periocular hair growth as an adverse effect.

References

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