

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 31, 1993

SECOND CASE OF CORNEAL BLINDNESS FROM AMOEBA DIAGNOSED IN ANOTHER CONTACT LENS WEARER

Further to the diagnosis of the first case of Acanthamoeba Keratitis in the Territories three weeks ago, the second case has just been confirmed at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The second patient is also a young contact lens wearer who started to have symptoms of redness, irritation, foreign body sensation, photophobia, corneal haziness and episodic but severe eye pain after wearing contact lens for only nine months. After repeated attempts by special laboratory testing, the diagnosis was finally made 15 months after the initial symptoms. Vision in the problematic eye has dropped to counting fingers only.

According to the doctor in charge, Dr. Dennis S.C. Lam, Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the Department of Surgery, Chinese University of Hong Kong, the food for this type of amoeba is bacteria and improper contact lens care with bacteria contamination predisposes to the growth of the amoeba. The risk of infection becomes very high when a compromised eye is exposed to high doses of amoebae. Although diagnosis is difficult to make and treatment is not always effective, the condition can be easily prevented with proper contact lens care. The use of home made saline for rinsing contact lens should be avoided. Besides, early diagnosis makes treatment very effective and full recovery becomes possible. Learning the proper ways of contact lens care and regular eye check up with optometrist and ophthalmologist are advisable.

Professor Arthur K.C. Li, Dean and Chairman of Surgery of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong added that it is a must to bring this condition to the attention of contact lens wearers as the danger of corneal damage can be prevented. In addition, while home made saline should be avoided, cleansing solution with the ability to kill the amoeba is essential.

* * * * *

For press enquiries, please contact Dr. Dennis S.C. Lam of the Chinese University's Faculty of Medicine at 6362630, 6362635 or 1163131 A/C 6902.