

Ophthalmic Images

Pseudomonas aeruginosa Corneal Ulcer Associated With Artificial Tears Eye Drops

Morgan K. Morelli, MD; Amy Kloosterboer, MD; Ahmed F. Omar, MD

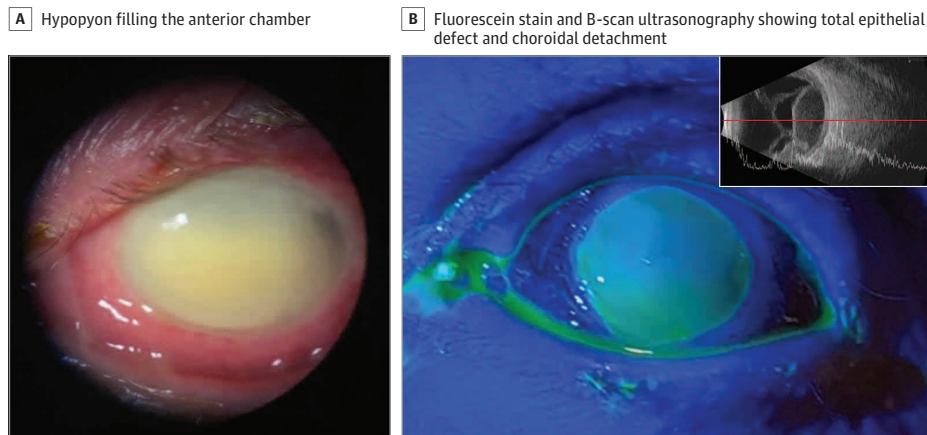


Figure. External photograph and B-scan ultrasonography of the left eye.

A 72-year-old woman presented with vision loss in the left eye for 1 week. She reported use of over-the-counter (OTC) multiuse eye drops for bilateral dry eye syndrome. Physical examination was notable for visual acuity of light perception (LP) and a hypopyon filling the anterior chamber (Figure, A) with an epithelial defect (Figure, B) involving most of the cornea. Examination of the right eye was unremarkable. Culture of left corneal scrapings grew extensively drug-resistant *Pseudomonas*

aeruginosa, susceptible only to cefiderocol. Culture of her OTC EzriCare artificial tears grew comparable drug-resistant *P aeruginosa*. She was treated with intravenous cefiderocol, topical imipenem/cilastatin, and topical polymyxin B/trimethoprim. Her course was complicated by a serous choroidal detachment detected by B-scan ultrasonography. At 2-month follow up, left-sided vision remained LP. On February 1, 2023, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a health advisory¹ regarding more than 50 similar infections associated with OTC artificial tears.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Author Affiliations: Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio (Morelli); University Hospitals Eye Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio (Kloosterboer, Omar); Department of Ophthalmology, Assiut Medical School, Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt (Omar).

Corresponding Author: Ahmed F. Omar, MD, University Hospitals Eye Institute and the

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, 11100 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106 (ahmed.omar@uhhospitals.org).

Published Online: March 22, 2023.
doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2023.1105

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

Additional Contributions: We thank the patient for granting permission to publish this information.

REFERENCE

1. Outbreak of Extensively Drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Associated with Artificial Tears | HAI | CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/crpa-artificial-tears.html> (accessed March 6, 2023).