

Annals of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

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A Bilateral Christmas tree Cataract Case

*Corresponding Author: Sima Sheikhghomi

Eye Research Center, Farabi Eye Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Received: Dec 03, 2021 Accepted: Jan 04, 2022

Published Online: Jan 07, 2022

Journal: Annals of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Publisher: MedDocs Publishers LLC

Email: sshaikhghomi@yahoo.com

Online edition: http://meddocsonline.org/

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Keywords: Cataract; Christmass tree cataract; Polychromatic crystals.

Clinical image description

This photograps belongs to a 75-year-old diabetic woman who presented to our clinic with bilateral progressive decreasing vision from a few years ago. She had a best-corrected visual acuity of count finger at 2 ms in her right eye and 20/200 in the left one by the Snellen chart. On the slit lamp examination, multiple clusters of poly chromatic and highly reflective needle-like crystals were seen within the cortex of the lenses of both eyes. In this case, the patient also had a Moderate to severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy and macular ischemia in her both eyes, which was the main cause of reduction of her vision.

Christmas tree cataract is a rare type of lenticular opacity with a unique appearance. It is usually an incidental finding in slit lamp examination and is usually idiopathic but some studies have revealed that there is some association between early onset of this type of cataract with systemic diseases like dystrophic myotony [1,2].



Cite this article: Sheikhghomi S. A Bilateral Christmas tree Cataract Case. Ann Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2021; 4(2): 1021.

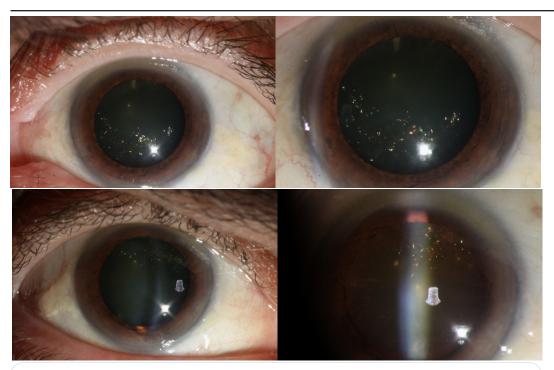


Figure 1: Christmas tree cataract within the cortex of the lens of the both eye.

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