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Eye-quiz
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Conjunctival intraepithelial microcyst

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Clinical context

A 17-year-old teenage girl with open-angle glaucoma as a complication of penetrating keratoplasty had undergone an uneventful primary augmented trabeculectomy surgery. One year postsurgery, her intraocular pressure (IOP) was stable in the low teens with a shallow diffuse bleb.

Question 1
Describe the findings in Figure 1a and 1b.

Question 2
What is the implication of the presence of the findings in Figure 1a and 1b in trabeculectomy surgery?

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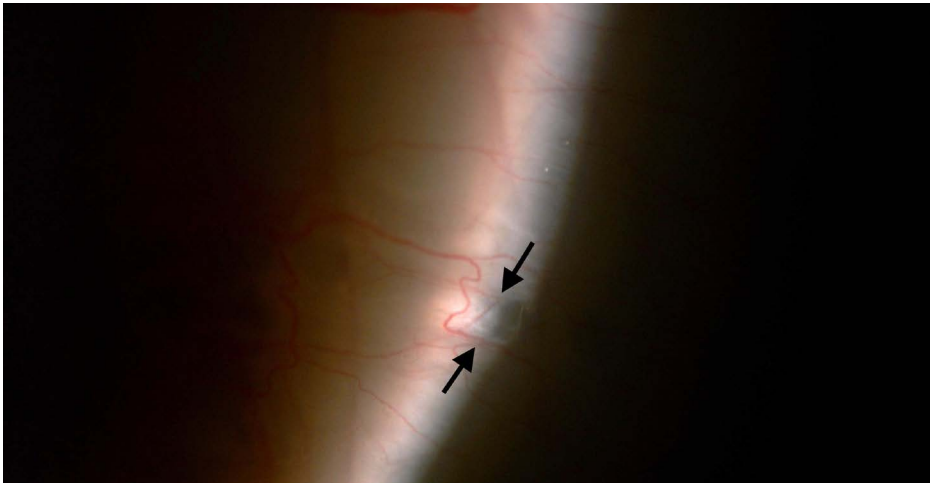

Fig. 1a.

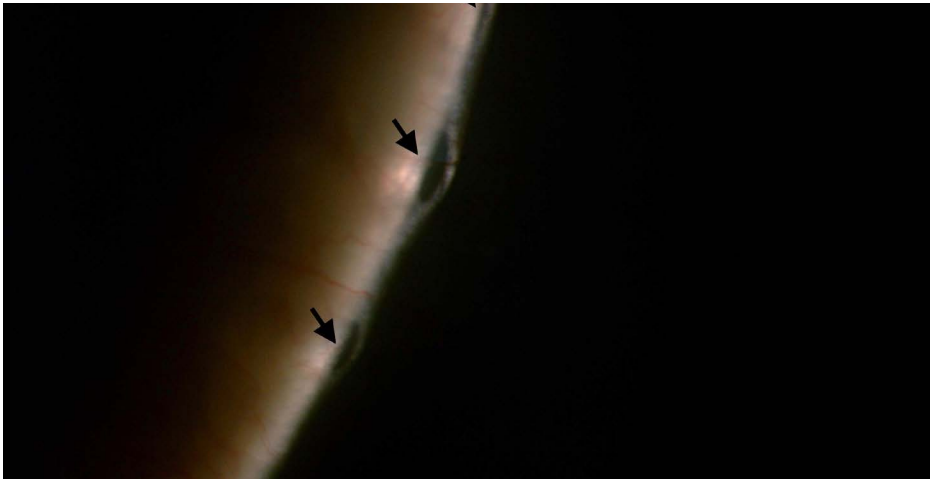

Fig. 1b.

Answer 1

Slit lamp examination revealed multiple conjunctival intraepithelial microcysts. As seen in Figure 1a, the parallelepiped illumination of the slit lamp shows a conjunctival intraepithelial microcyst. In Figure 1b, specular reflection technique of the microcysts shows the cross-section of tiny cystic vesicles present on the outer surface of the conjunctiva. The microcysts consist of various sizes of cystic cavities covered by a thin layer of conjunctiva with conjunctival vessels overlying it.

Answer 2

Conjunctival intraepithelial microcysts are associated with lower IOP and are an indicator of successful glaucoma surgery.[1-2] It is possible these microcysts act as mini-reservoirs for aqueous to leave the conjunctival vessels via the transconjunctival route.

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