Subconjunctival Silicon Oil Cysts

A 15-year-old patient with Stickler syndrome, who had undergone multiple vitrectomies and had retained silicone oil, presented with recurrent retinal detachment with ocular irritation. Numerous subconjunctival cysts were subsequently excised (Fig 1A). Macroscopic examination showed nodular membranous tissue containing multiple translucent cystic structures (Figs 1B and C). The results of histologic sectioning (stain, hematoxylin–eosin; original magnification, ×2; Fig 1D) showed large, clear cysts surrounded by thin, compact layers of fibrosis. Focal areas adjacent to large cysts contained foamy histiocytes with clear intracytoplasmic vacuoles (stain, hematoxylin–eosin; original magnification, ×20; Fig 1E). Findings represent a local foreign body reaction to material consistent with silicon oil likely extruded from prior sclerotomy sites. This complication may be more common with the use of sutureless sclerotomies. (Magnified version available at www.ophthalmologyretina.org).

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