

Heterochromia iridis: one iris, two colors

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Clinical image:

A 44 year-old male consulted for progressive membrane growth over his left eye. Best corrected visual acuity was 6/6 OU, pupils were symmetric and reactive with normal ocular adnexa and full ocular motility. On slit lamp examination, we noted a grade III pterygium, normal gonioscopy, a transparent lens and vitreous with normal fundus examination. The iris showed a bicolored pattern with a grayish depigmented temporal patch and brown coloration of the remained iris surface (**Figure1**). The fellow eye was normal with monochromatic brown iris.

The patient denied any previous history of ocular traumatism or inflammation. There was no drug intake neither systemic symptom. His family history was negative for similar cases.

Sectorial heterochromia (heterochromia iridis) arises when areas of the same iris are different in colour. It may be unilateral or bilateral and it should not be confused with binocular heterochromia (heterochromia iridum) where the variation occurs between the two irides [1].

This condition is inherited as a congenital autosomal dominant trait [2] or could be associated with several ocular and systemic pathological conditions such as Waardenburg syndrome, retinoblastoma, ocular siderosis and inflammation [3].

Hence, medical history and clinical evaluation are mandatory to rule out acquired conditions associated with sectorial heterochromia as well to diagnose associated ocular abnormalities such as depigmentation of the retinal pigment epithelium.

The patient was informed for the possible inherited origin and the benignity of this finding. He was scheduled for pterygium surgery.

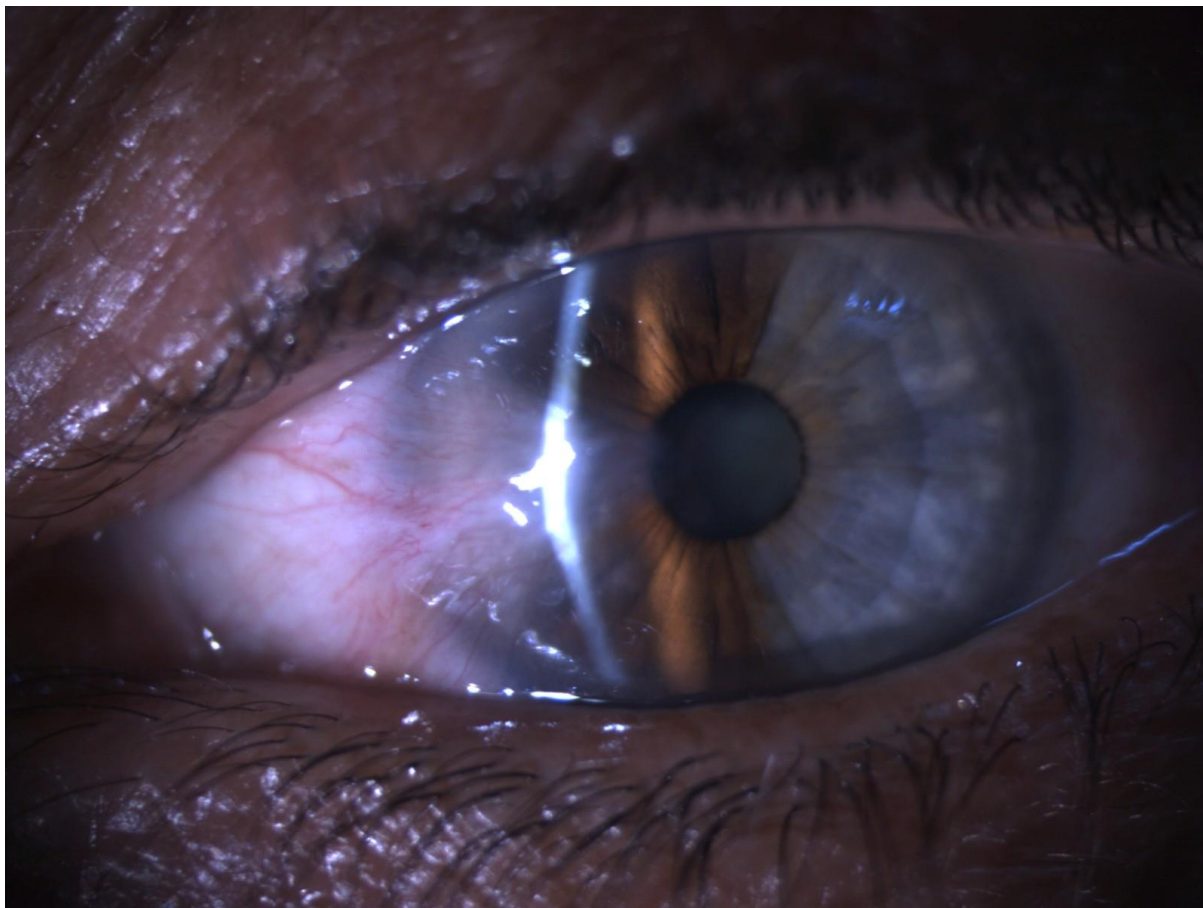


Figure 1: Segmental heterochromia iridis involving the right eye.

Disclosure of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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