**Why Streptococcus pneumoniae is Present in Eye Patients?**

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**Letter to Editor**

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* a Gram positive diplococci is the most frequent bacteria isolated in patients with eye infection¹ as well as other diseases such as Pneumonia, Arthritis, Sinusitis and Otitis Media². *Streptococcus pneumoniae* may produce endogenous and exogenous eye infection. Dramatic endophthalmitis may occur after cataract surgery due to this microbial agent. These infections are more frequent in immuno-compromised patients. Frequently the germs come from the lacrimal sac or nasolacrimal duct. This constitutes an evident exogenous ocular infection. More rarely has been published endogenous eye infection by this Gram positive diplococci. During an episode of pneumonia may occur and endogenous endophthalmitis². Positive culture has been demonstrated in vitreous samples. Treatment in these cases is the same that in postoperative cases.

Exogenous or endogenous remain in controversy. In absence of ocular surgery or penetrating traumatism may constitute and endogenous infection. If the germs is isolated in the culture, a foci of infection should be investigated. Uveitis, vitritis, retinal vasculitis and papillitis has been reported due autoimmune against proteins of Streptococcus B-hemolitic³,⁴,⁵. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is an alpha-hemolitic germs. Cases of endogenous inflammation without positive culture and known foci of infection by this germ may be also autoimmune pictures? This possibility has been not reported. In addition, the *S. pneumoniae* is a pyogenic bacterium with enhanced virulence due to its capsule that allows escape from immune response⁶,⁷,⁸. Further research may clear more details.

**REFERENCES**


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