

NEURO-OPHTHALMIC DISORDERS IN CARTOON CHARACTERS: THE REAL LOST

Author 1: D. Ezra
Credentials 1:
Organization 1: Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road,
London, EC1V 2PD, UK

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Presenter: D. Ezra

Author 2: G.T. Plant
Credentials 2:
Organization 2: The National Hospital for Neurology
and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, WC1N

Name: D. Ezra
E-mail 1: ezra@gmail.com
Address: 123 Main Street New York, NY 10022
Office Phone: 201-456-1111
Cell Phone: 201-456-2222
Fax: 201-456-3333

Background: To describe neuro-ophthalmic disorders occurring in cartoon characters.

Purpose: The incidence of neuro-ophthalmic disorders in cartoon characters is unknown.

Methods: Retrospective review of patients attending the neuro-ophthalmic clinic of Moorfields in 2009. Records of 2-dimensional patients were selected for review.

Conclusions: Three cartoon characters were identified. The first was a case of bilateral ptosis in a patient suffering from hypersomnolence and achondroplasia.¹ He worked as a miner and sang in a male voice choir. Syndactyly of the third and fourth digits was noted. There was frontalis overaction and reduced palpebral apertures but normal levator function. A diagnosis of bilateral levator disinsertion was made. The second case attended with unilateral proptosis secondary to attempted strangulation. He was a safety inspector in a nuclear power plant. Examination revealed a yellow skin discoloration and syndactyly. There was marked proptosis of the right eye which worsened with valsalva. Imaging revealed orbital varices and a crayon impacted in the left frontal lobe (considered incidental finding).² The third patient was a child referred from his optometrist because of severely limited peripheral visual fields. Chiasmal compression due to craniopharyngioma was suspected. On examination the child was small for age and wore a bright orange "hoodie" style garment. Removal of the garment resulted in immediate expansion of his visual fields.³ Tragically, despite this curative procedure, he was run over by an ambulance as he left the hospital. Neuro-ophthalmic disorders in cartoon characters do occur but are rare in clinical practice.

Citations:

¹Tow S, Plant GT. Genetic disorders in cartoon characters: the Singapore perspective. J Non-Hum Gen 2000;4;200-220.

²Kennard C, Sarkies N. Persistence of childhood intracranial foreign bodies: the Springfield cohort study. In: Aydin P, Kompf D, editors. Cartoon Brains: Function and Dysfunction. Springfield: B Simpson, 1999;457-478.

³Landau, K. Practical Perimetry: The Importance of Clothing. South Park, Fox Broadcasting Company, 10-50.

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