

Stellate Cataract



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A 55-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS REFERRED BY HIS GENERAL PRACTITIONER BE-
cause of a progressive unilateral decrease of visual acuity over the previous
6 months. The patient reported having blunt ocular trauma from a fist
punch 9 months earlier. On examination, he was noted to have a stellate-shaped
axial opacification of the lens. Traumatic cataracts are caused by blunt or penetrating
ocular trauma. The proposed mechanism for indirect injury is shock waves
progressing through the eye along the line of concussion. Opacification of the lens
may occur in the cortex or capsule and can result in the formation of a stellate-
shaped or rosette-shaped cataract. If such injuries disrupt the visual axis, cataract
surgery may be required. This patient regained full visual acuity after successful
phacoemulsification and intraocular-lens implantation.

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