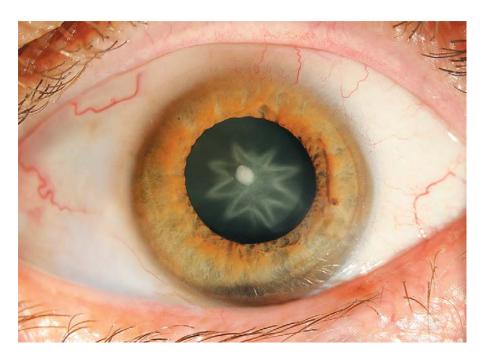
IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Stellate Cataract



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55-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS REFERRED BY HIS GENERAL PRACTITIONER BEcause 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 stellateshaped 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.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMicm1204510 Copyright © 2013 Massachusetts Medical Society.