

FIBROUS HISTIOCYTOMA OF THE CONJUCTIVA

**which recurred twice
after apparently complete surgical
excision
but responded to immunotherapy**

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Initial Presentation

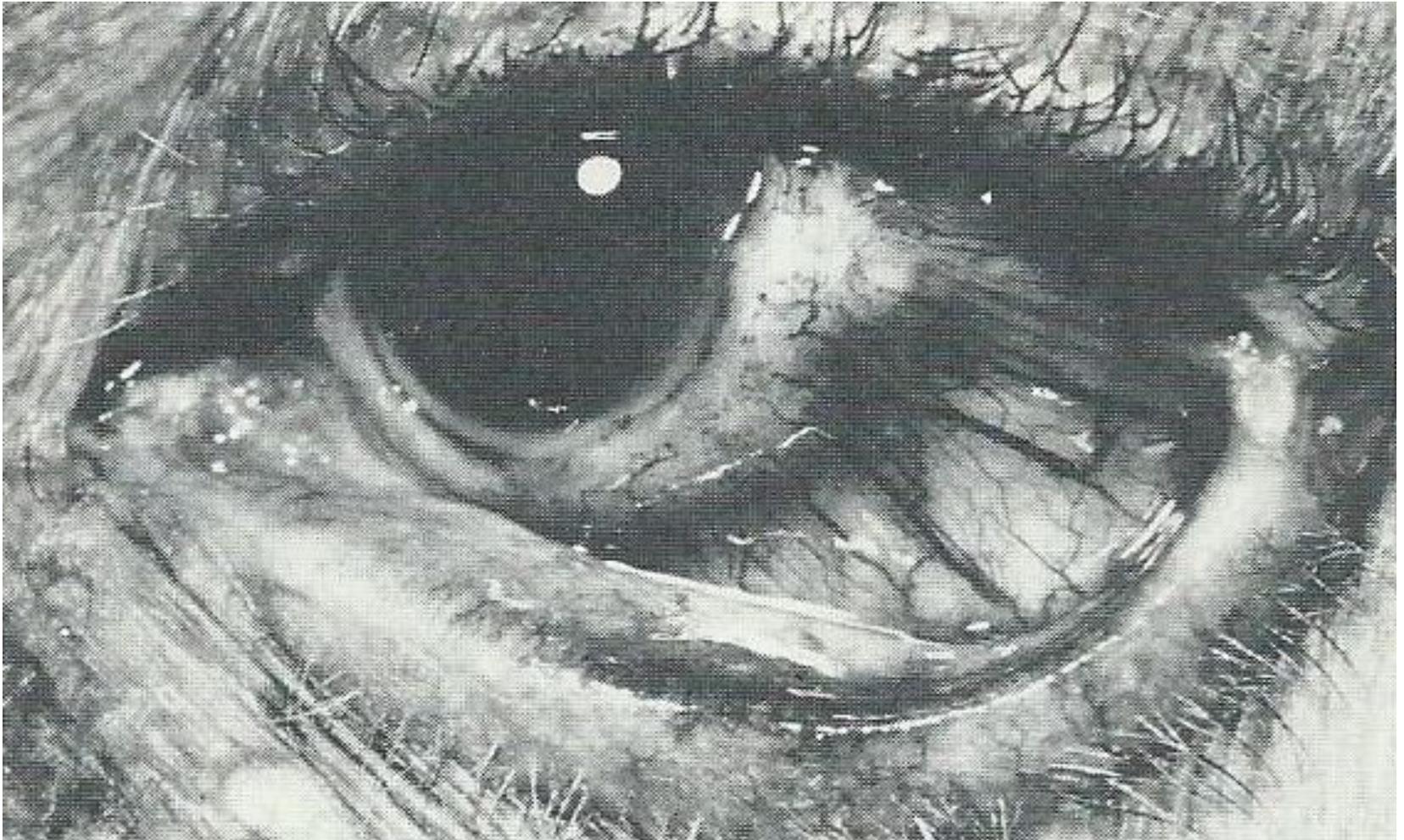
21 November 1980

66 yo male with conjunctival growth at left lateral limbus.

**Initial Treatment (7 January 1981):
Surgical excision -(appeared complete).**

Diagnosis: Fibrous Histiocytoma.

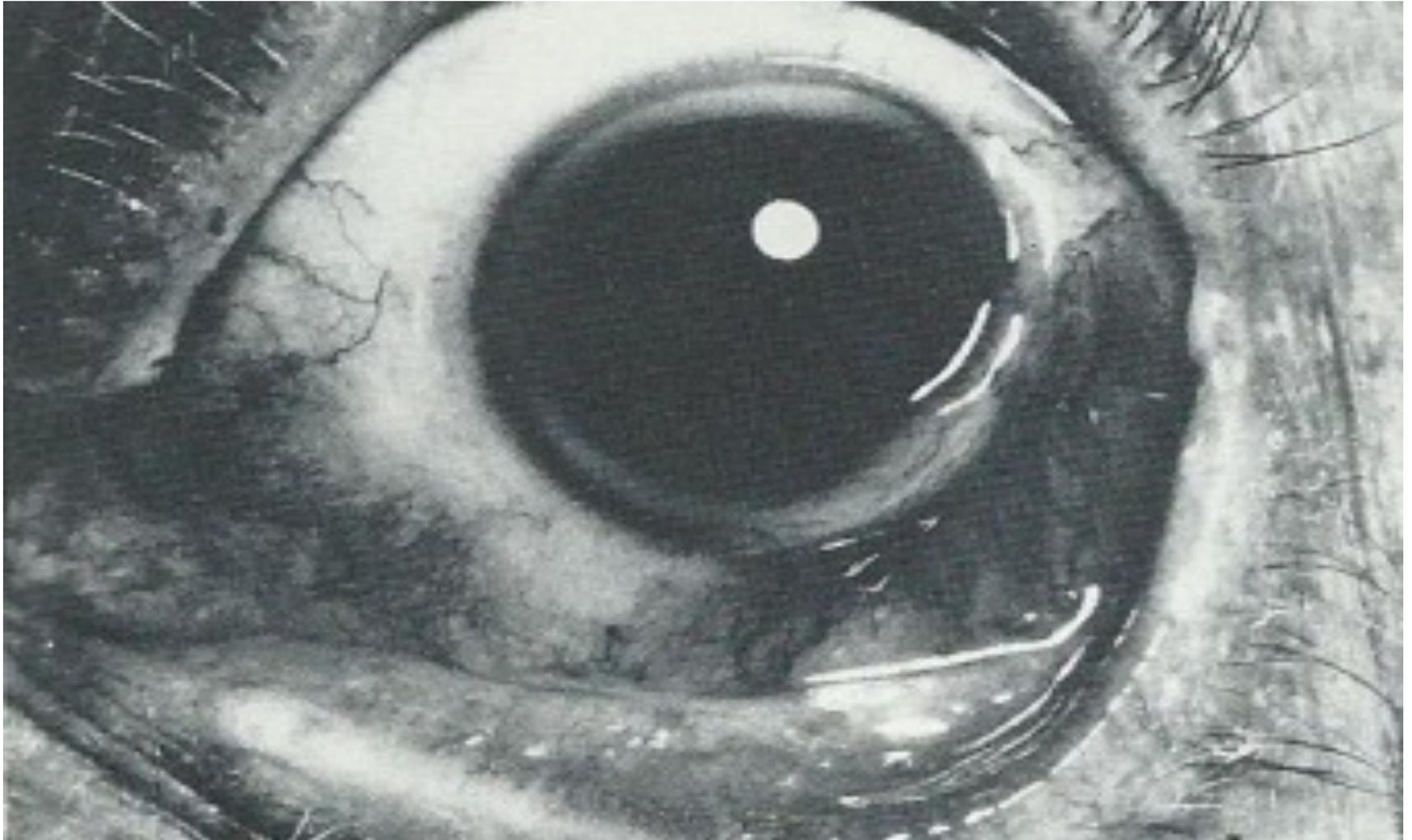
Tumour considered locally malignant, like a BCC, but not expected to metastasise.



21 October 1981 - tumour recurs 9 months after apparently complete surgical excision.

**Second treatment
(3 December 1981):**

**Second surgical excision
(again appears complete).**



But on 7 July 1982 - tumour recurs again, 7 months after the second apparently complete surgical excision.

Immunotherapy using Dinitrochlorobenzene was now attempted (1982).

The patient was sensitized by an intradermal inoculation of 10% DNCB in acetone, into the volar surface of his (R) forearm.

Technique:

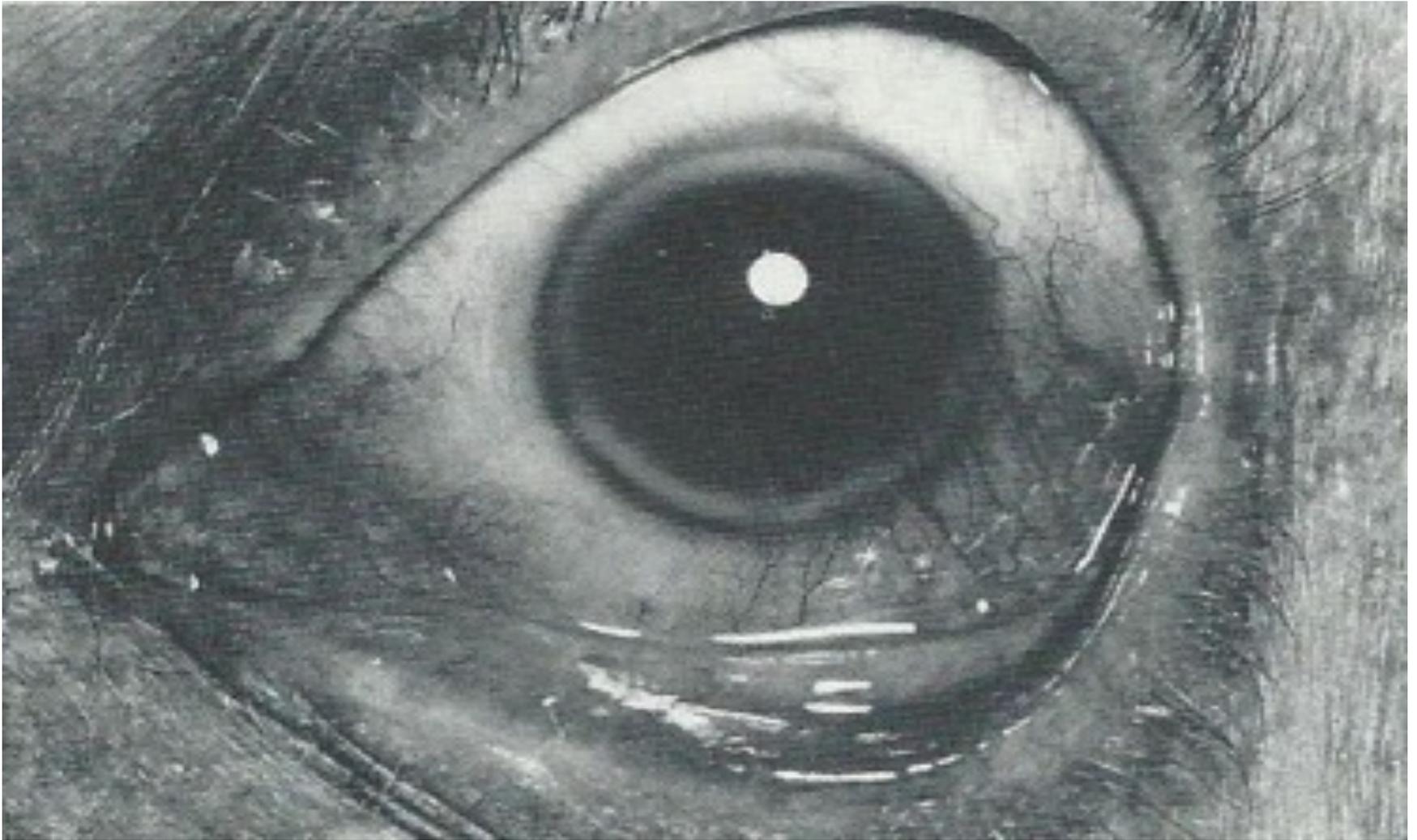
The solution was painted onto an area of skin 3 X 1 cm and 4 small needle pricks were then made into that skin.

At one week:

a positive immunological response was observed and the conjunctival lesion was painted with DNCB 2.5 mg/ml acetone

At two weeks:

the conjunctival lesion was painted again and a small sub-conjunctival injection was given. The eye became very painful for a couple of days and the patient declined further treatment.



1984 : Appearance of the eye two years after immunotherapy with dinitrochlorobenzene. All that remains is a small vascularised scar.

I decided to use dinitrochlorobenzene after I found two previous fibrous histiocytomas in the literature, which had been successfully treated in this manner.

A later concern expressed to me by a colleague was that benzenes themselves may be carcinogenic.

I followed this patient up for 10 years without tumour recurrence, until he succumbed to cardiovascular disease. He certainly did not die of cancer.

Nowadays several drugs used to treat cancers are suspected of predisposing to different cancers a decade or so later.

More recent papers citing the use of dinitrochlorobenzene have now appeared in the medical literature.

Examples are:

(1) J Am Acad Dermatol 1994 Sept

Clinical and immunologic evaluation of HIV-infected patients treated with DNCB.

Stricker RB et al.

(2) Melanoma Research 1997 Dec

Topical DNCB combined with systemic dacarbazine in the treatment of recurrent melanoma.

Strobbe LJA et al.

(3) J Am Acad Dermatol 2000 Feb

Topical DNCB therapy in the treatment of refractory atopic dermatitis: systemic immunotherapy.

Yoshizawa Y et al.

(4) Indian Journal of Dermatology

2001 Vol.46 Issue 1.

DNCB in the treatment of warts.

Chattopadhyay SP

In 1982 I believed this was the first case of an ocular tumour cured by immunotherapy in Australia.

In 2015 I believe this is possibly the last case of an ocular tumour cured by immunotherapy in Australia. Please correct me if I am wrong.