Abstract:

PURPOSE: Tangier disease is an autosomal recessive disorder in which cholesterol-rich lipids are deposited at various tissues of the body including the cornea. In this case report, the corneal changes in a patient with Tangier disease are described.

METHODS: A 72-year-old patient who was diagnosed with Tangier disease 25 years before received a complete eye examination including confocal microscopy and Cochet-Bonnet esthesiometry. RESULTS: Slit-lamp biomicroscopy and confocal microscopy showed bilateral corneal opacifications caused by lipid accumulation. Confocal microscopy showed that pathologic changes in the cornea in Tangier disease are limited to the stroma. Neither a reduced corneal sensation nor lid abnormalities as previously described in Tangier disease were found. CONCLUSION: Confocal microscopy helps to identify corneal changes in the stroma caused by Tangier disease easily missed in a slit-lamp examination. The ocular manifestations of Tangier disease do not necessarily include a reduced cornealsensitivity and lid abnormalities.