Iridodonesis as a cause of recurrent vertigo

A 56-year-old woman complained of recurrent attacks of vertigo. Attacks lasted no longer than a second and could be easily provoked by abrupt eye movements. Vertigo disappeared when the left eye was covered. Symptoms had begun after left-sided cataract surgery resulting in subluxation of the left lens. The characteristic feature of iridodonesis is the tremulousness of the iris with eye movement (video on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org). While in many cases iridodonesis is asymptomatic, we speculate that in our patient, the instability of the optical system results in a trembling image on the retina, which, in turn, causes irritation in downstream brain regions.

Hagen Kunte, MD, Friedemann Paul, MD, Florence Pache, MD, Jan Dörr, MD, Judith Bellmann-Strobl, MD, Lutz Harms, MD, Golo Kronenberg, MD

From NeuroCure Clinical Research Center (H.K., F. Paul, F. Pache, J.D., J.B.-S.) and Charité Center 15 for Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry (L.H., G.K.), Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin; and Experimental and Clinical Research Center (J.B.-S.), Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany.

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Correspondence to Dr. Kunte: hagen.kunte@charite.de

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