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Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous N° CEP

### **MYCOBACTERIUM ABSCESSUS ENDOPHTHALMITIS:TREATMENT DILEMMA AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**

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**Purpose:** Herein we report a case of *Mycobacterium abscessus* endophthalmitis that developed 20 days after a phacoemulsification and posterior chamber intraocular lens (IOL) implantation. **Methods:** A 76-year-old woman underwent uncomplicated clear cornea phacoemulsification with implantation of a posterior chamber IOL in the right eye. Twenty days after surgery she complained of blurred vision. Examination revealed vision of counting fingers at 1 meter, a corneal abscess in the incision, moderate anterior chamber reaction with 1mm hypopyon and severe vitreous reaction with loss of the red reflex. A pars plana vitrectomy was performed. **Results:** After two vitrectomies and injection of antibiotics into the intravitreal space, the posterior segment showed an initial improvement but areas of scleral necrosis were unchanged and the hypopyon persisted. Four months later there was no sign of infection but visual acuity was no light perception. **Conclusion:** Endophthalmitis caused by *Mycobacterium abscessus* is a rare but devastating condition associated with poor outcome of visual acuity. Mycobacteria have been shown to be very difficult microorganisms to treat, and require minimum inhibitory concentration analysis of the antibiotic to be used. These patients often require multiple vitrectomies and numerous intravitreal injections of antibiotics.