

## **Delayed Corneal Wound Healing in a Patient Treated With Colchicine for Gout**

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Colchicine is an anti-inflammatory drug commonly used in the treatment and prophylaxis of Auto-immune and inflammatory disorders such as Gout, Familial Mediterranean fever (FMF),

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and Behcet's disease. Colchicine may adversely affect wound healing through its inhibitory effect on tubulin-dependent cell functions and through collagenase activation. In the past few years there have been a few reports on the possible ocular side effects of colchicine, mainly in patients with FMF. These reports described corneal complications and healing delay in patients after strabismus and cataract surgery, or spontaneously. All these cases showed rapid resolution after withdrawal of colchicine.

We present a 79-years-old patient with gout treated with colchicine, who developed a severe corneal ulcer. The ulcer was refractory to all treatment modalities and the thinning process kept progressing. Withdrawal of colchicine therapy was followed by rapid corneal healing within several days and marked improvement in visual acuity. This report adds gout as another disease in which colchicine may be the cause of corneal complications and emphasizes the importance of recognizing this potential blinding complication. Ophthalmologists should be aware of this possible complication in patients with different rheumatologic conditions who are treated with colchicine.