Test your knowledge and understanding

This page is designed to help you test your own understanding of the concepts covered in this issue, and to reflect on what you have learnt. We hope that you will also discuss the questions with your colleagues and other members of the eye care team, perhaps in a journal club. To complete the activities online – and get instant feedback – please visit www.cehjournal.org

1. What measures would help prevent or reduce sight loss from microbial keratitis? Select all that apply

a. Prophylactic treatment of simple corneal abrasions with chloramphenicol eye ointment
b. Rapid referral from primary health care facilities to regional eye units
c. Use of protective goggles in work situations where eyes might be injured
d. Improved awareness of microbial keratitis among primary health workers
e. Reliable availability of appropriate antibacterial and antifungal eye drops

2. To make a diagnosis of microbial keratitis it is necessary to have a slit lamp. True or False?

a. True
b. False

c. Select one

3. Which of the following are helpful in identifying the type of organism causing microbial keratitis infection? Select all that apply

a. Gram stain of scrape slide
b. Presence or absence of a hypopyon
c. Presence or absence of serrated/feathery edges to the corneal infiltrate
d. Potassium hydroxide stain of corneal scrape slide
e. Presence or absence of raised slough on the corneal surface

4. Antimicrobial treatments work equally well in different settings. True or False?

a. True
b. False

c. Select one

ANSWERS

1. a, c, d and e
2. True
3. a, c, d and e
4. False

A 35-year-old man in an equatorial African country presents with a two-week history of gradually progressive pain, redness and reduced vision (6/60) in the left eye. The problem began after the left eye was scratched by a maize leaf while he was harvesting. The right eye is not affected.

1. What is the most likely diagnosis?

a. Chronic uveitis  

b. Herpes simplex viral keratitis  

c. Microbial keratitis (possibly fungal)  

d. Traumatic abrasion  

e. Corneal scar

2. What clinical signs are present?

a. Conjunctival injection  

b. Hypopyon  

c. Corneal perforation  

d. Corneal slough  

e. Trichiasis

3. What treatments might be useful in managing this condition?

a. Atropine eye drops  

b. Acyclovir eye ointment  

c. Oral anti-fungal medication  

d. Natamycin 5% eye drops  

e. Topical or sub-conjunctival antibiotics

4. Which of the following are helpful in identifying the type of organism causing microbial keratitis infection? Select all that apply

a. Gram stain of scrape slide  

b. Presence or absence of a hypopyon  

c. Presence or absence of serrated/feathery edges to the corneal infiltrate  

d. Potassium hydroxide stain of corneal scrape slide  

e. Presence or absence of raised slough on the corneal surface

5. Antimicrobial treatments work equally well in different settings. True or False?

a. True  

b. False

ANSWERS

1. a, b, c and e
2. False
3. a, d and e
4. True
5. False

Reflective learning
Visit www.cehjournal.org to complete the online ‘Time to reflect’ section.