

Recurrent dermatitis

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A healthy six year old girl presented with recurrent dermatitis around her mouth, the condition worsened during winter. There was no pain and only slight pruritus.

Question 1

The most likely diagnosis is:

- A. perioral dermatitis
- B. iron deficiency
- C. primary herpes simplex gingivostomatitis
- D. lip lickers dermatitis.

Question 2

What is the significance of this dermatitis?

Question 3

What is the treatment?



Answer to last month's Brain teaser



Answer 1

The whitish colour behind the pupil, also known as 'cat's eye reflex', is usually indicative of retinoblastoma. Although uncommon it is the commonest eye tumour in children, and the third most common cancer overall affecting children.

Answer 2

Retinoblastoma may occur at any age however, it most often occurs in younger children, with 95% of cases diagnosed before the age of five years. Retinoblastoma can be either hereditary

or nonhereditary. It is inherited in approximately 30-40% of patients, therefore all children in a family should be checked. The inherited or germline form may manifest as unilateral or bilateral disease.

Answer 3

Retinoblastoma is a tumour that occurs in germline (40%) and sporadic (60%) forms. Germline disease includes those patients with a positive family history and those patients who have inherited a germline mutation from an unaffected parent.

Answer 4

Retinoblastoma is usually confined to the eye and as a result 90% of children with retinoblastoma have five year survival rates that exceed 90%.

The treatment for retinoblastomas depends on the size and shape, and location of the tumour, whether both eyes are affected or not, and whether the tumour has metastasised. In general,

treatment involves enucleation and radiotherapy. Patients need close follow up because of the relatively high risk of developing further tumours.

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Send your answers to arrive by 5 December. A voucher for medical books or medical equipment to the value of \$100 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the December 2002 issue.

Address entries to:

November Brain Teaser
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The winner of the September Brain teaser is Dr Simon Lockwood, Woomera, SA