

# **FIBROUS HISTIOCYTOMA OF THE CONJUCTIVA**

**which recurred twice  
after apparently complete surgical  
excision  
but responded to immunotherapy**

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# **Initial Presentation**

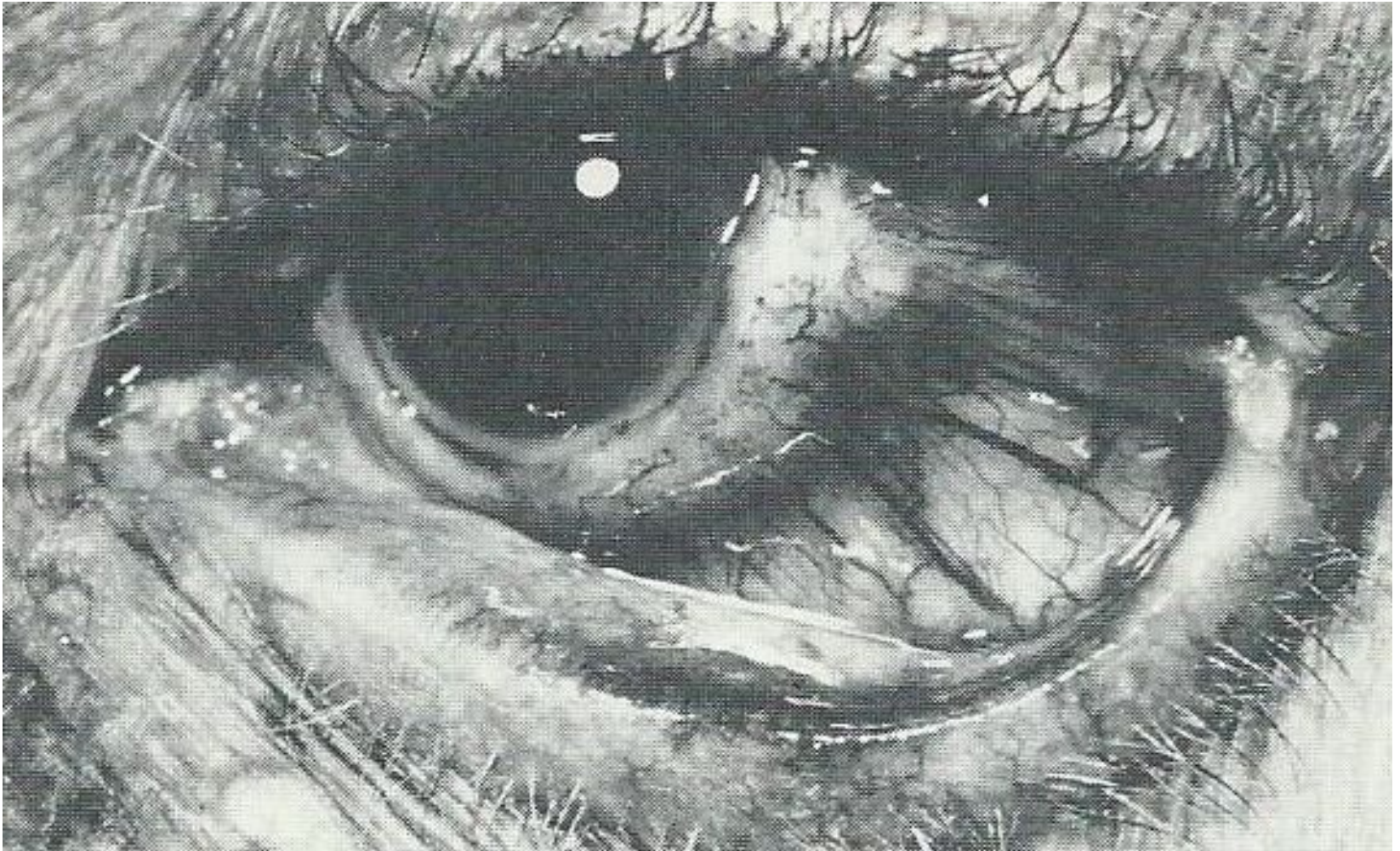
**21 November 1980**

**66 yo male with conjunctival growth at left lateral limbus.**

**Initial Treatment (7 January 1981):  
Surgical excision -(appeared complete).**

**Diagnosis: Fibrous Histiocytoma.**

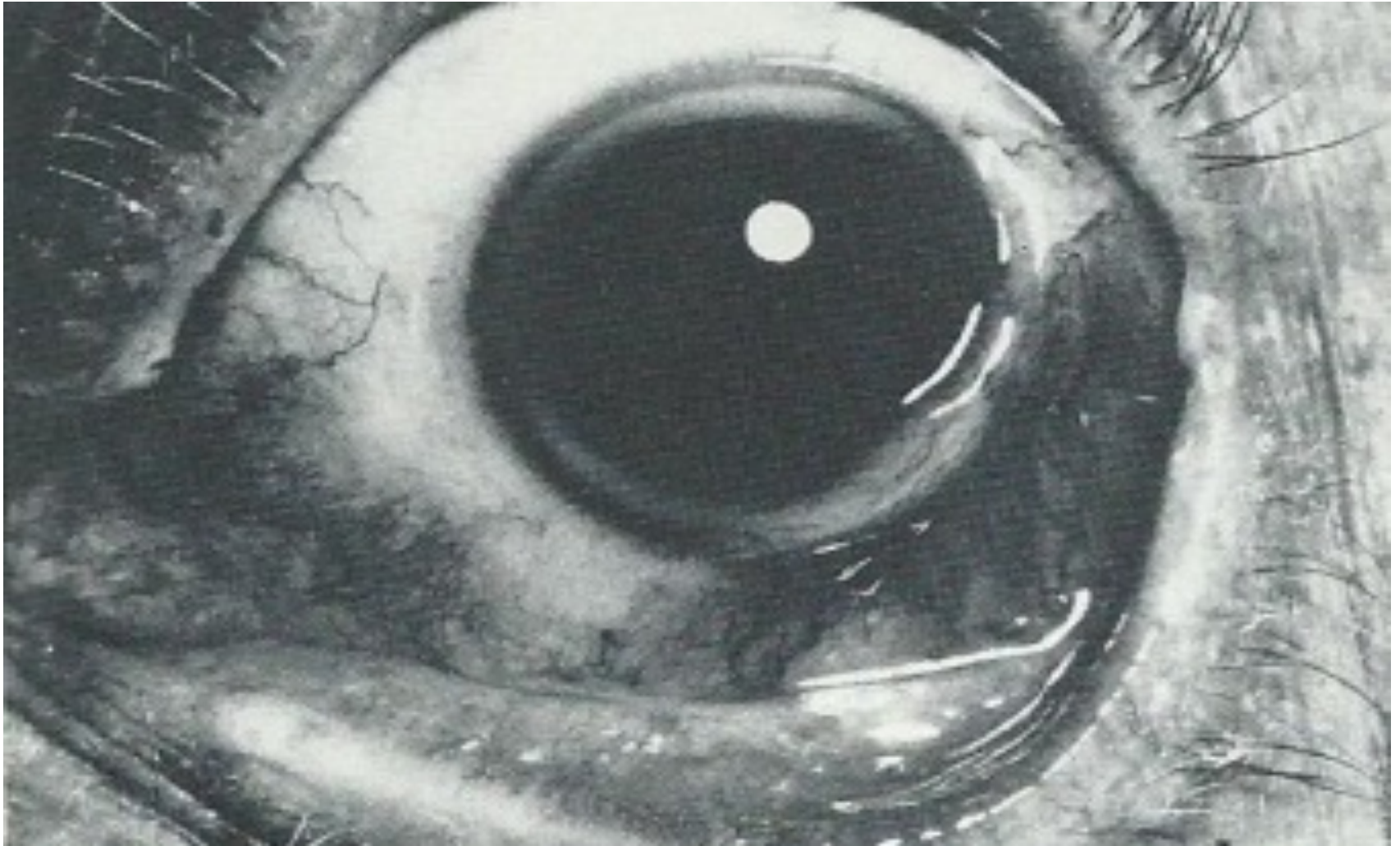
**Tumour considered locally malignant, like a BCC, but not expected to metastasise.**



**21 October 1981 - tumour recurs 9 months after apparently complete surgical excision.**

**Second treatment  
(3 December 1981):**

**Second surgical excision  
(again appears complete).**



**But on 7 July 1982 – tumour recurs again, 7 months after the second apparently complete surgical excision.**

# **Immunotherapy using Dinitrochlorobenzene was now attempted (1982).**

**The patient was sensitized by an intradermal innoculation of 10% DNCB in acetone, into the volar surface of his (R) forearm.**

## **Technique:**

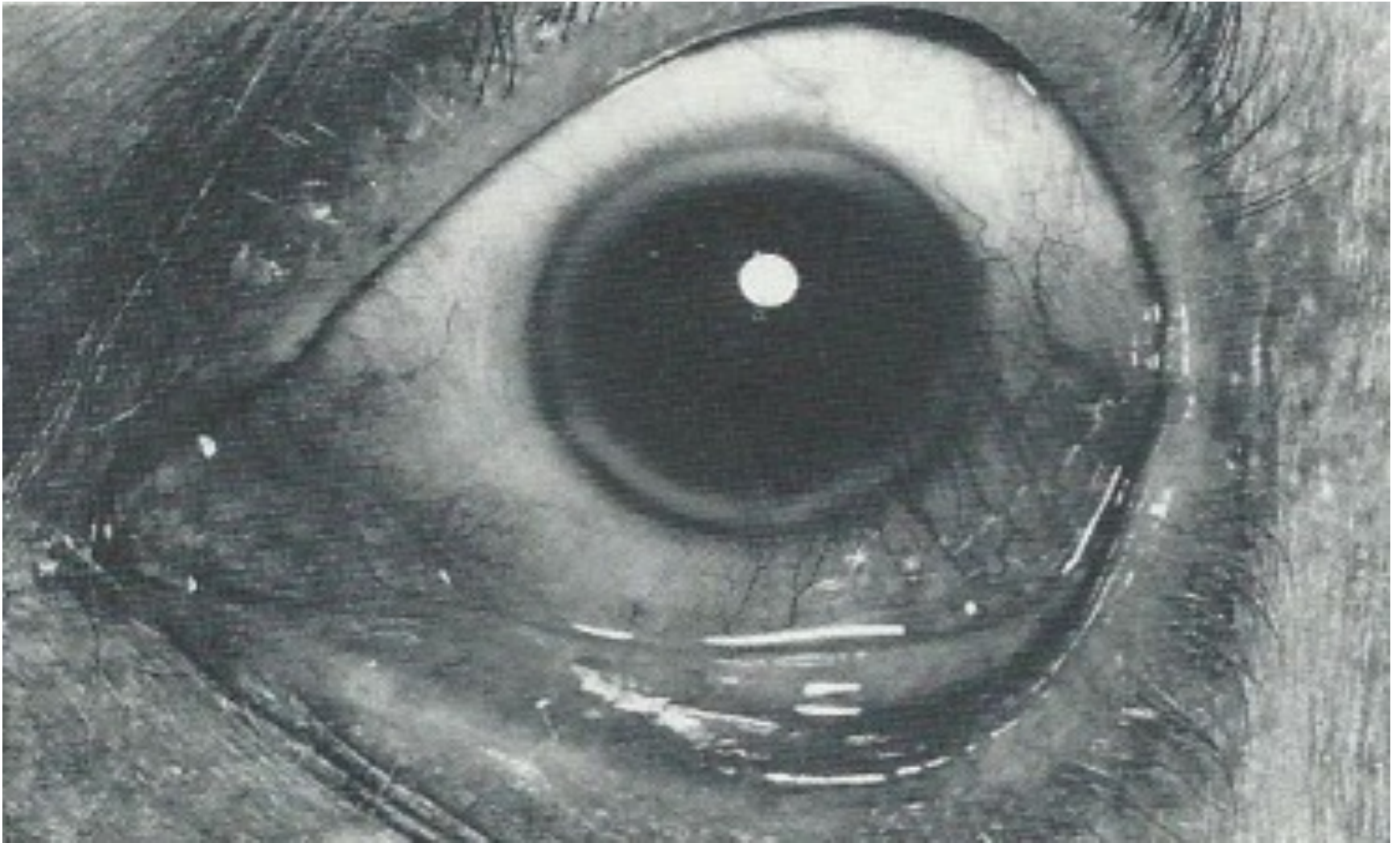
**The solution was painted onto an area of skin 3 X 1 cm and 4 small needle pricks were then made into that skin.**

**At one week:**

**a positive immunological response was observed and the conjunctival lesion was painted with DNCB 2.5 mg/ml acetone**

**At two weeks:**

**the conjunctival lesion was painted again and a small sub-conjunctival injection was given. The eye became very painful for a couple of days and the patient declined further treatment.**



**1984 : Appearance of the eye two years after immunotherapy with dinitrochlorobenzene. All that remains is a small vascularised scar.**



**I decided to use dinitrochlorobenzene after I found two previous fibrous histiocytomas in the literature, which had been successfully treated in this manner.**

**A later concern expressed to me by a colleague was that benzenes themselves may be carcinogenic.**

**I followed this patient up for 10 years without tumour recurrence, until he succumbed to cardiovascular disease. He certainly did not die of cancer.**

**Nowadays several drugs used to treat cancers are suspected of predisposing to different cancers a decade or so later.**

**More recent papers citing the use of dinitrochlorobenzene have now appeared in the medical literature.**

**Examples are:**

**(1) J Am Acad Dermatol 1994 Sept**

**Clinical and immunologic evaluation of HIV-infected patients treated with DNCB.**

**Stricker RB et al.**

**(2) Melanoma Research 1997 Dec**

**Topical DNCB combined with systemic dacarbazine in the treatment of recurrent melanoma.**

**Strobbe LJA et al.**

**(3) J Am Acad Dermatol 2000 Feb**

**Topical DNCB therapy in the treatment of refractory atopic dermatitis: systemic immunotherapy.**

**Yoshizawa Y et al.**

**(4) Indian Journal of Dermatology**

**2001 Vol.46 Issue 1.**

**DNCB in the treatment of warts.**

**Chattopadhyay SP**

**In 1982 I believed this was the first case of an ocular tumour cured by immunotherapy in Australia.**

**In 2015 I believe this is possibly the last case of an ocular tumour cured by immunotherapy in Australia. Please correct me if I am wrong.**