The age range of these traumatic sarcomas of the eye is very wide, starting with the age of seven (Nitsch) and extending into the senile period. The incidence of the traumatic sarcomas increases with advancing age.

Ewing; Knox; and Verhoeff, who do not concede a traumatic causation of choroid melanosarcomas, have raised the following objections against such a relationship: The eye is frequently injured, even physiologically, every day many times, without responding to such traumatization with the development of melanotic neoplasms; such tumors are relatively rare; and numerous severe injuries to the eye, involving the melanin carrying constituents and causing prolonged and permanent pathological changes in the eye, have not been followed by neoplastic responses of this type, militating against the assumption that a trauma may activate a predisposing and preexisting anatomical anomaly and congenital malformation in the eye. Any dogmatic, though perhaps scientifically permissable, attitude in such a matter cannot overcome the fact that our knowledge of the causal factors underlying many cases of malignancy is highly defective or non-existing. It is rather negligible for this reason that the traumatic production of choroid melanosarcoma has not been accomplished experimentally. The circumstantial evidence presented by some cases is such that a causal interrelation between the preceding ocular trauma and the occurrence of the choroid melanosarcoma must be acknowledged in exceptional cases from a medico-legal standpoint. It is highly improbable that even in these cases the trauma represents the main or only cause of the tumor.

In adjudging the relation of the site of the injury to the location of the tumor consideration must be given to the fact that a trauma to the eye may cause pathological changes of the eye in places remote from the region directly injured. It is, therefore, not absolutely essential from a medico-legal standpoint that the sites of trauma and tumor coincide.

A few reports mention the traumatic genesis of malignant tumors in adnexal organs of the eye. The development of a sarcoma in the lacrimal caruncle one month after an accidental burn by a lighted cigarette was observed in a boy, 7 years old, by Alexiades. Pincus reported the appearance of a cylindroma of the lacrimal gland in a boy, 14 years old, whose lid had been hit three months previously with a board, causing a hemorrhage into the substance of the lid. This investigator stated that nine similar reports concerning the development of a cylindroma or of a mixed tumor in the orbital tissue of a previously injured eye were found in the literature.

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