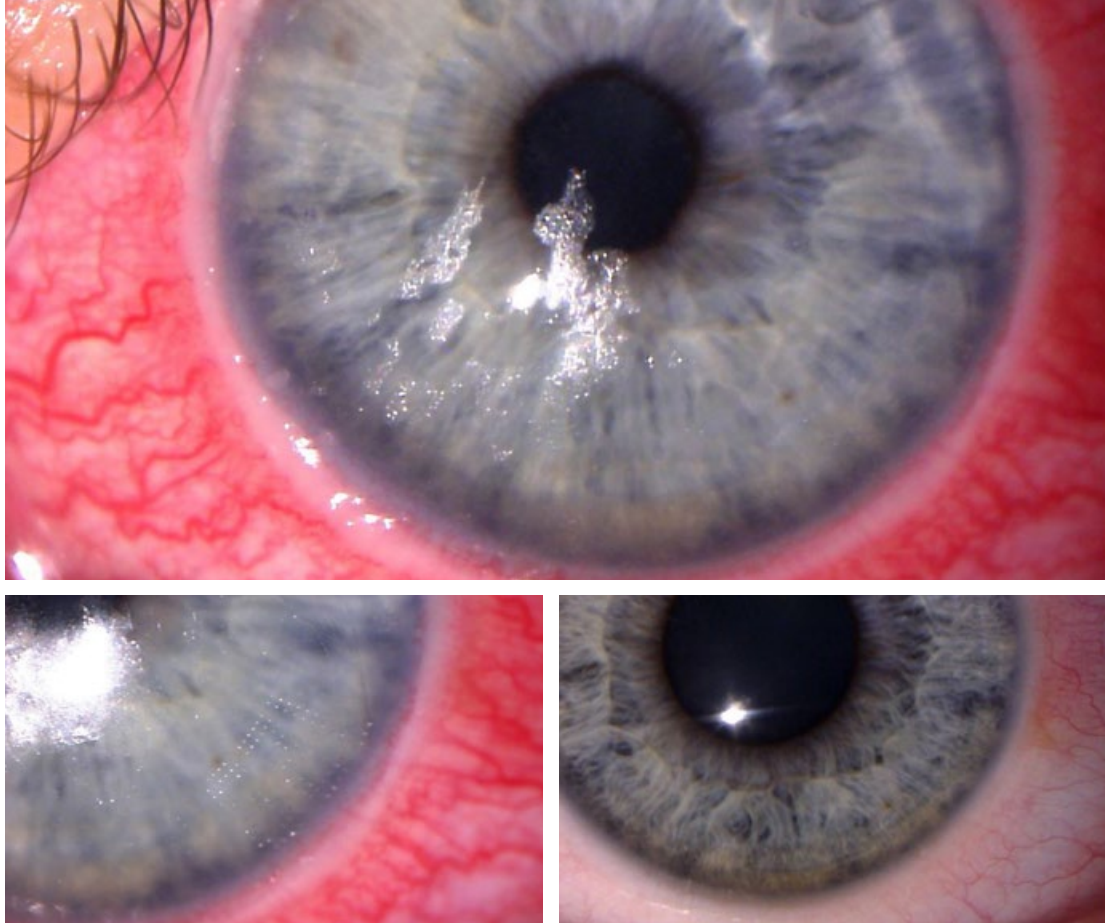


MYSTERY IMAGE
BLINK



Ruben Kuruvilla, MD, Laser Eye Surgery of Erie, Erie, Penn.

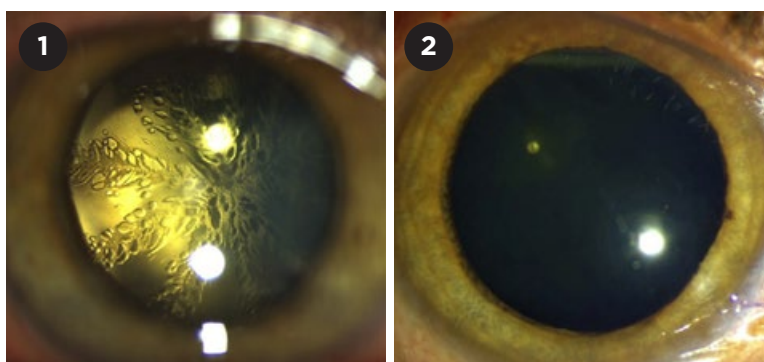
WHAT IS THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY CONDITION? Be sure to visit aao.org/eyenet to make your diagnosis in the comments area.

LAST MONTH'S BLINK

“Evanescent Cataract,” or Gas-Induced Lenticular Opacification

A 45-year-old man presented with complaints of diminishing vision in his right eye for 1 week. Fundus examination revealed a total retinal detachment with hand motion vision in that eye. The left eye was normal. He underwent pars plana vitrectomy with scleral buckle and a gas tamponade with sulfur hexachloride. On the first day postoperatively, the posterior segment examination revealed an attached retina with a 90% gas-filled eye. In addition, we observed a new-onset posterior subcapsular cataract, which had a ferning pattern (Fig. 1).

On subsequent follow-up appointments over 7 days, we saw the gradual disappearance of the cataract (Fig. 2) without any intervention, which is why we call it “evanescent cataract.” The reason



for the disappearance is unclear; we attribute it mainly to gas-induced oxidative stress—as the gas was absorbed the cataract vanished.

WRITTEN BY PRIYA BAJGAI, MBBS, AND RAMAN-DEEP SINGH, MBBS. PHOTOS BY DR. BAJGAI. BOTH ARE AT ADVANCED EYE CENTRE, POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH, INDIA.