

A Waxing Gibbous Moon: Subluxated Cataract with Zonular Laxity

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Abstract

A 38-year-old male presented with bilateral subluxated cataractous lenses and zonular laxity. The cataractous lens showed a crescentic subluxation with peripheral serrations resembling a “Waxing Gibbous Moon.” Systemic evaluation was unremarkable. The patient underwent successful cataract extraction with scleral-fixated IOL implantation. This image highlights the classical appearance and underscores the need to consider connective tissue disorders like Weill-Marchesani and Marfan syndrome in such cases.

Keywords: Microspherophakia, Cataract, Subluxation, Connective Tissue Disorders

A 38-year-old male presented with blurring of vision in BE for one year. Examination revealed a BCVA of 1/60 in BE, a subluxated microspherophakic cataractous lens with zonular laxity (Figure 1), and an unremarkable posterior segment on B-scan. Appearance of the cataractous lens mimicked that of a Waxing Gibbous Moon—a phase of the moon where it appears humped back (Figure 1). Systemic evaluation was unremarkable, and the patient underwent cataract extraction along with scleral fixation of IOL.

Increased sphericity or zonular instability of the lens may suggest an underlying connective tissue disorder, such as Weill-Marchesani or Marfan syndrome, necessitating comprehensive evaluation.¹

The term waxing means increasing, and the term gibbous means “humped-back.” The terms are used for a phase of the moon called Waxing Gibbous because the surface area of the Moon that is seen is increasing, and the shape of the lit-up part of the Moon looks like a hump-back. The punctate cataractous opacities and the serrations at the equator due to zonular insertions mimic the uneven, cratered surface of the moon.

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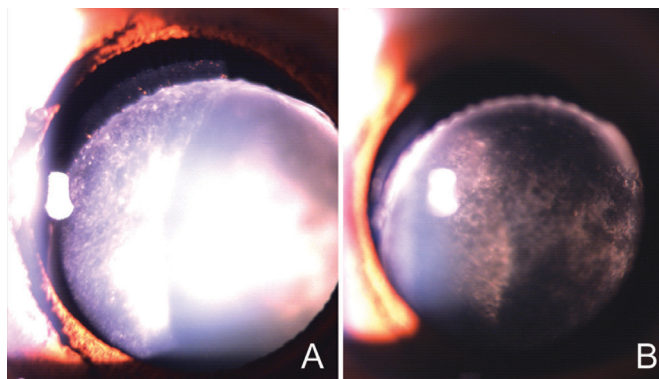


Figure 1(A-B): Slit lamp photograph depicting a subluxated cataractous lens with zonular laxity and a microspherophakia component. The appearance resembles what is called a “Waxing Gibbous Moon”.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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