

Varicella-zoster virus (VZV) epithelial keratitis, pseudodendrites

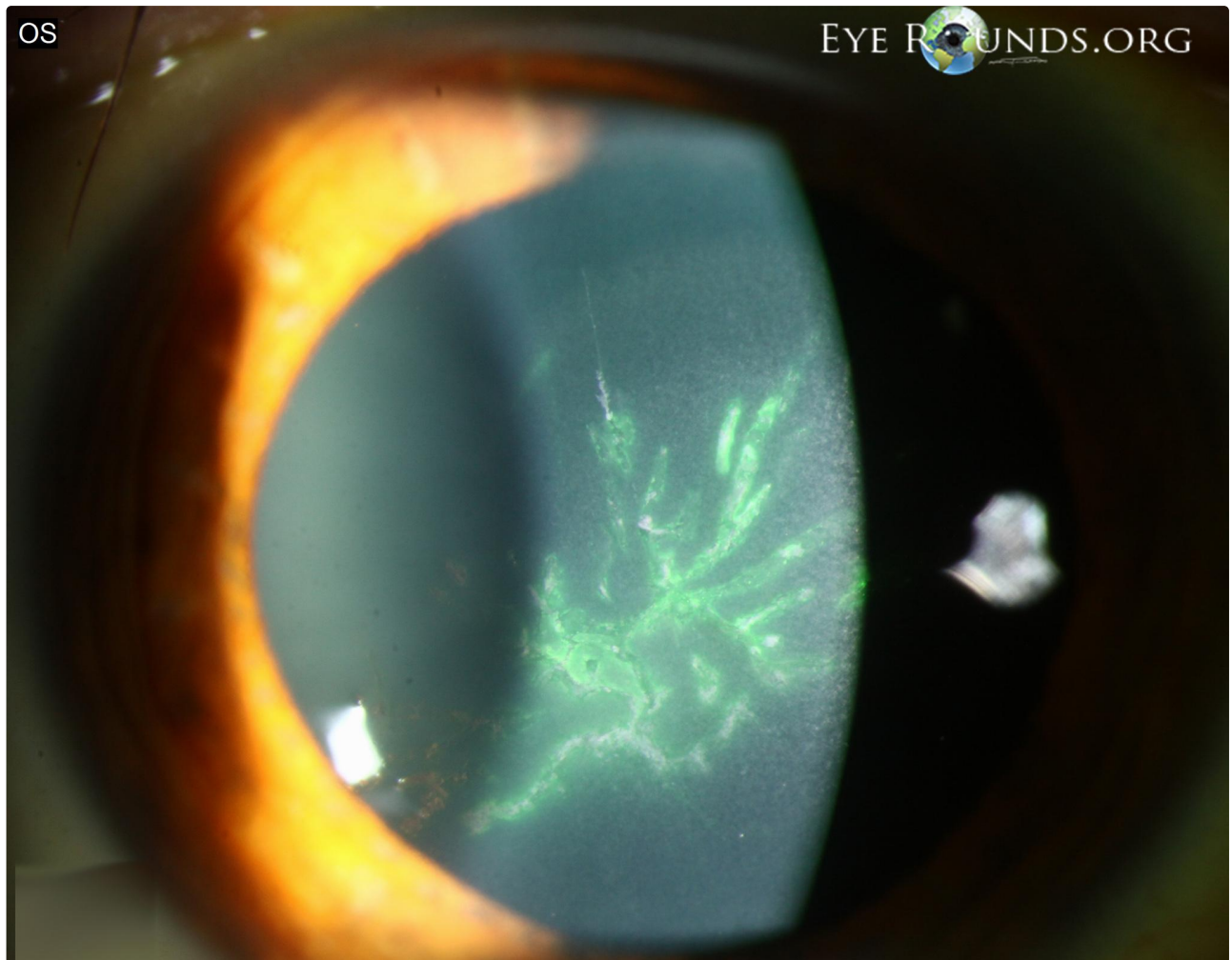
Category(ies): Cornea

Contributor: [Jeff Welder, MD](#); [Jesse Vislisel, MD](#)

Photographer: Cindy Montague, CRA



Varicella-zoster virus (VZV) is a Herpes virus responsible for chicken pox and shingles. With corneal epithelial involvement, the virus can cause punctate or dendritic epithelial keratitis. The pseudodendrites caused by VZV can be differentiated clinically from "true" dendrites caused by Herpes simplex virus (HSV). In contrast to HSV dendrites, VZV pseudodendrites are smaller in size, elevated without central ulceration, they do not have terminal bulbs, and have relative lack of central staining. Elevated mucous plaques may occur weeks to months after resolution of the original pseudodendrites. Residual corneal hypoesthesia after the infection can be severe.



 [Enlarge](#)

 [Download](#)

Image Permissions:



Ophthalmic Atlas Images by EyeRounds.org, The University of Iowa are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).

Address

University of Iowa
Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College
of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology and
Visual Sciences
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242

[Support Us](#)

Legal

Copyright © 2019 The University of
Iowa. All Rights Reserved
[Report an issue with this page](#)
[Web Privacy Policy](#) |
[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)

Related Links

[Cataract Surgery for Greenhorns](#)
[EyeTransillumination](#)
[Gonioscopy.org](#)
[Iowa Glaucoma Curriculum](#)
[Iowa Wet Lab](#)
[Patient Information](#)
[Stone Rounds](#)
[The Best Hits Bookshelf](#)

EyeRounds Social Media

Follow



Receive notification of new cases,
[sign up here](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Submit a Suggestion](#)