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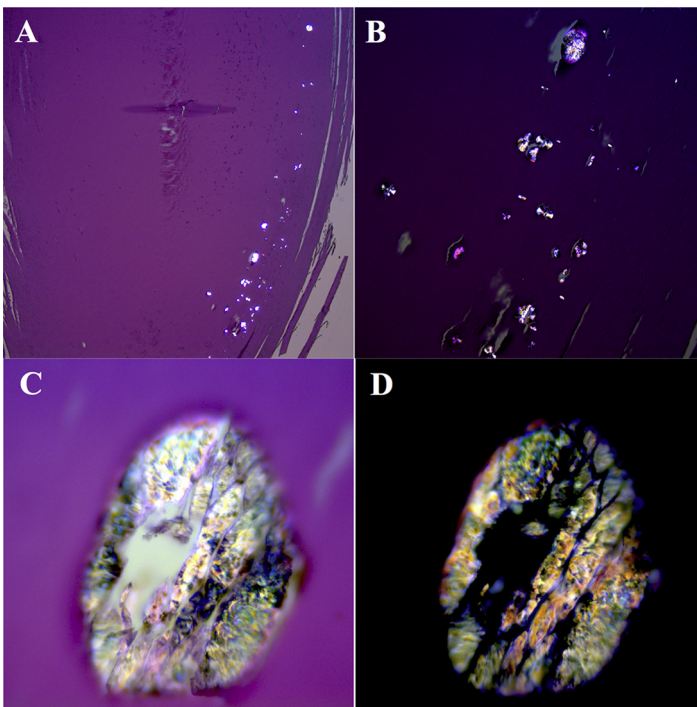
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Pictures & Perspectives



Calcium Oxalate Crystals in a Lens with Advanced Cataractous Changes

An 85-year-old man with right eye trauma 35 years prior presented with light perception vision. Examination showed a dense, brunescens nuclear cataract. B-scan ultrasonography was normal. Patient underwent uncomplicated small-incision extracapsular cataract extraction and lens implantation. Histopathologic examination of the lens revealed smooth eosinophilic center with deposits in the periphery. Deposits likely represent calcium oxalate crystals given their prismatic birefringence (Fig 1A–D). Calcium levels in the lens are regulated by Ca^{2+} -ATPase pumps; can increase with age; and can be associated with opacification in cataractous lenses. Calcium oxalate crystals have been found within spheroidal opacities in mature and hypermature nuclear sclerosis cataracts.

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