

Letter to the Editor

Cosmetic Contact Lenses Can Create Diagnostic Confusion

Dear *Cutis*[®]:

A 16-year-old adolescent boy presented to the dermatology department for routine evaluation of his acne. During the evaluation, we could not help but notice that the patient's eyes were odd, and we spent several minutes considering the differential diagnosis. The color of the iris was nearly white, matching his white sclera. The only color present was the small black pupil (Figure). Upon questioning, the patient revealed he was wearing cosmetic contact lenses that disguised the normal color of the iris. After removing the contact lenses, there were no abnormalities.

Heterochromia of the iris encompasses a wide differential diagnosis.¹ Our patient, however, had

symmetric white irides. There is no known medical condition that produces this finding. The symmetry of the irides rules out Waardenburg syndrome, which is of particular interest to dermatologists. Along with an asymmetric heterochromic iris, Waardenburg syndrome presents with a light blue iris, a white forelock, white patches of skin, premature graying of hair, and decreased hearing.²

Dermatologists should be aware of the existence of cosmetic contact lenses that come in a wide range of unnatural colors and patterns. A history and careful examination to identify the contact lenses will confirm the diagnosis.

Sincerely,
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The authors report no conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Douglas CR, Chang B, eds. *The Wills Eye Manual: Office and Emergency Room Diagnosis and Treatment of Eye Disease*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, Pa: JB Lippincott Company; 1994.
2. Hall JC. *Sauer's Manual of Skin Diseases*. 8th ed. Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 1999.

**Figure not
available online**

White cosmetic contact lenses produce a dramatic appearance by disguising the coloration of the iris.