Letter to the Editor

Aesthetic Surgery Tip Redefined

To the Editor:

Although I usually enjoy your journal, I was surprised to see the term “scleral edema” in Dr. Steven Hoefflin’s [Letter to the Editor] “Three Simple Aesthetic Surgery Tips,” in the September/October issue of Aesthetic Surgery Journal (1997;17:319). The phenomenon to which he alluded is actually conjunctival edema, also know as chemosis. Edema of the sclera would be extremely uncommon after lateral canthoplasty or transconjunctival blepharoplasty and is instead seen after intraocular surgery or as part of idiopathic orbital inflammation (orbital pseudotumor). Dr. Hoefflin’s regimen to reduce postoperative chemosis is typically effective, however, and his tips are certain to be appreciated by many aesthetic surgeons.

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Dr. Hoefflin’s reply: I thank Dr. Fante for bringing to my attention the error in nomenclature. Conjunctival edema or chemosis is certainly correct, and not scleral edema. The correction is noted.