UNILATERAL MACULAR HYPOPYON AND BILATERAL OPTIC PERINEURITIS FROM SECONDARY SYPHILIS -- CASE REPORT

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Purpose: To report a case of secondary syphilis with unilateral macular hypopyon and bilateral optic perineuritis.

Method: A case report.

Result: A 51-year-old man experienced progressively blurred vision in his left eye for 2 months. Fundoscopy revealed disc edema in both eyes and macular hypopyon in the left eye. On fluorescein angiography, there was perivascular leakage at the posterior pole in the left eye and optical coherence tomography showed subretinal fluid. Positive serologic testing for syphilis was noted. Intramuscular Penicillin G Benzathine was administered once every week for three courses. There was near total resolution of macular hypopyon after treatment.

Conclusion: Secondary syphilis may present with macular hypopyon and induced blurred vision. Optic perineuritis in secondary syphilis may not affect vision. Early awareness of macular hypopyon and perineuritis from secondary syphilis allows rapid diagnosis and therapy.

Key words: Secondary syphilis, macular hypopyon, optic perineuritis.

INTRODUCTION

The advent of penicillin almost wiped out syphilis, but there has been an increase in the incidence of syphilis infections reported over the past decade. Syphilis infection can mimic many other disease and produces lesions anywhere in the eye. Uveitis is the most common ocular finding of syphilis, occurring in 2.5% to 5% of patients with tertiary syphilis.¹ Focal retinitis, papillitis, optic neuritis, iritis, keratic precipitates, peri­phlebitis, vitritis, choroiditis, dacryoadenitis, scleritis and serous and exudative retinal detachment were also reported among both human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) - positive and HIV negative patients.¹,²

Macular hypopyon is not a common feature in ocular syphilis.³ We report a case with unilateral macular hypopyon and bilateral optic perineuritis.