Acute Syphilitic Posterior Placoid Chorioretinitis in an Immunocompetent Patient: Case Report

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Purpose: To report a case of acute syphilitic posterior placoid chorioretinitis in an immunocompetent patient.

Method: Interventional case report.

Results: A 41-year-old male patient presented with progressive blurred vision and multiple placoid patches of chorioretinitis in both eyes. The placoid lesion improved after oral prednisolone treatment, but blurred vision persisted. Serum test showed a positive rapid plasmin reagin and treponema pallidum particle agglutination test, compatible with acute syphilitic placoid posterior chorioretinitis. The patient responded quickly and well to an intramuscular benzathine penicillin injection.

Conclusion: Owing to a wide variety of presentations and a lack of pathognomonic features, the diagnosis of ocular syphilis requires a high index of suspicion. Routine survey of rapid plasma reagin is feasible for patients presenting with ocular inflammation of an unknown origin. It is important to establish an early diagnosis because such patients respond well to appropriate treatment. Thus, unfavorable results caused by unnecessary steroid use can be avoided.

Key words: ocular syphilis; acute syphilitic posterior placoid chorioretinitis; uveitis

Introduction

Syphilis is known as “the great imitator” and may manifest as uveitis most commonly in the eye, other presentations include interstitial keratitis, vitritis, iritis, keratic precipitates, focal retinitis, periphlebitis, and less commonly: papillitis and serous exudative retinal detachments. We present a case with a relatively uncommon feature, acute syphilitic placoid posterior chorior...