HERPES ZOSTER OPHTHALMICUS PRESENTING AS ORBITAL CELLULITIS – A CASE REPORT

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Purpose: To report a case of herpes zoster ophthalmicus with initial presentation as orbital cellulitis.

Methods: Case report.

Results: A 61-year-old immunocompromised female was admitted to the department of internal medicine due to fever and was treated for sepsis with systemic antibiotics. She also had a 7-day history of left sided headache and left eye pain associated with progressive eyelid swelling and conjunctival chemosis. Preseptal cellulitis (OS) was initially impressed after ophthalmology inpatient consultation. The following day, rapid progression of redness and swelling of eyelid with severe eye pain developed (OS). Ophthalmic examination revealed marked eyelid swelling, ptosis, and complete restriction of ocular movement (OS). Emergent orbital CT showed extraocular muscles swelling and infiltration of retrobulbar fat (OS). She underwent emergent anterior orbitotomy and local antibiotics irrigation under the impression of orbital cellulitis (OS). However, two days later, vesicular eruptions developed over her left forehead corresponding to the distribution of the first branch of the trigeminal nerve. Under the diagnosis of herpes zoster ophthalmicus (HZO), she was treated with intravenous acyclovir. Following a 9-day course of Flomoxef and a 5-day course with an antiviral agent, she was discharged in an improved condition. Her ptosis and restriction of ocular motility gradually recovered during 3 months of follow-up.

Conclusion: We presented a case of ophthalmic herpes zoster initially presenting as fulminant orbital cellulitis. Orbital herpes zoster infection should be considered in an immunocompromised patient with characteristics of orbital cellulitis.

Keywords: Orbital Cellulitis, Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus