

CAT-SCRATCH DISEASE PRESENTING WITH NEURORETINITIS -- A CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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Purpose: To report a case of serologically proven cat-scratch disease with ocular manifestations of neuroretinitis alone in the absence of systemic symptoms.

Method: Case report.

Results: A 31-year-old woman presented with unilateral painless blurred vision of right eye (OD) for two days without any other constitutional symptoms. Dilated fundus examination revealed optic disc edema, a dense pre-disc vitreous infiltrate and slight macular edema (OD) as well as a cotton-wool spot (OS). A macular star (OD) developed at 1-week follow-up. *Bartonella henselae* IgM testing was positive, which confirmed the diagnosis of cat-scratch disease. The patient was treated with steroid pulse therapy with recovery of best corrected visual acuity of right eye from 0.2 initially to 0.7 at 8-week follow-up.

Conclusion: Cat-scratch disease neuroretinitis in the absence of typical systemic manifestations and exposure history is rare and clinically challenging in its diagnosis. This case is also noteworthy in its fundus appearance. Treatment is controversial; however, systemic corticosteroids in this patient resulted in quick resolution of ocular inflammation.

Keywords: *Bartonella henselae*; cat-scratch disease; macular star; neuroretinitis

INTRODUCTION

Neuroretinitis is an inflammation of the optic nerve and retina caused by infectious, autoimmune or idiopa-

thic etiologies. It is characterized by optic disc swelling with the formation of a macular star. Neuroretinitis has been described in patients suffering from cat-scratch disease (CSD), a systemic infectious disease caused by the gram-negative rod *Bartonella henselae*.¹ The causa-

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