OCULAR MANIFESTATIONS SECONDARY TO STRANGULATION INJURY: A CASE REPORT

Ya-Chuan Hsiao¹, MD, Chih-Jen Lin², MD, Tsung-Lin Yang³, MD, Ching-Yao Tsai^{1,4}, MD, Lin-Chung Woung^{5,6}, MD, DMSc

Purpose: To report an unusual case of bilateral subconjunctival hemorrhage with diffuse petechia all over the face in a survivor who suffered from a strangulation attempt.

Methods: Case report.

Results: A young man came to the emergency room with the complaint of blurred vision after a sudden strangulation attack by his father. The skin of his face showed diffuse petechial hemorrhage, both eyelids were ecchymotic and severely edematous. The slit lamp examination revealed severe bilateral subconjunctival hemorrhage. The anterior segments of both eyes were normal. Indirect ophthalmoscopy revealed retina whitening with poor red reflex otherwise the retinal vessels and optic discs were normal. The visual acuity and intraocular pressure were within normal limits. Laboratory data showed erythropenia and decreased hematocrit, and electrolyte showed mild hyponatremia. The subconjunctival hemorrhage completely resolved and skin petechial patches resolved in two weeks.

Conclusion: Ophthalmologists should be aware of potential complications including hemorrhagic retinopathy, extraocular muscle hemorrhage, retinal vessels occlusion and elevated intraocular pressure following strangulation.

Key words: Strangulation, Subconjunctival hemorrhage, Hemorrhagic retinopathy

Received: April, 26, 2006. Revised: May, 15, 2006. Accepted: July, 4, 2006.

Correspondence and reprint requests to: Lin-Chung Woung Department of ophthalmology, Renai Branch, Taipei City Hospital. No.10, 4rd section, Ren-ai Road, Taipei, Taiwan, 106 E-mail: wounglc@tpech.gov.tw

Department of ophthalmology, Zhongxing Branch, Taipei City Hospital

²ST. Joseph Hospital, Kaohsiung

³Department of Otolaryngology, National Taiwan University Hospital

⁴National Yang-Ming University

⁵Department of Ophthalmology, Renai Branch, Taipei City Hospital

⁶Department of Ophthalmology, National Taiwan University Hospital