ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Eales disease is an idiopathic obliterative vasculopathy that usually involves the peripheral retina of young adults. The frequency with which it is encountered makes Eales disease a formidable diagnostic challenge.

CASE HISTORY: A 34-year-old male consulted his primary physician at PES for sudden onset of blurring of vision in his left eye while working on his computer. Vision loss was complete with sensation of floaters, specks, zig-zag lines. It was not associated with headache, limb weakness, loss of consciousness. His vitals were stable. Carotid pulsations were normal. No other neurocutaneous lesion of neurofibroma, arterial sclerosis, angioid streaks in pseudoxanthoma elasticum. No features suggestive of retinitis pigmentosa as in ataxic telanectasia. No history of diabetes or hypertension. Family history not significant. He was referred to Shankara Nethralaya (Chennai). He underwent vision testing with fundus fluorescent angiography, which revealed peripheral retinal vessel sclerosis with constriction and vitreous haemorrhage.

INVESTIGATIONS: Fluoroscopy fundus, visual acuity testing, tunerculin skin test, chest x-ray, and CT chest, ana profile. Test results: Chest x-ray appears normal. CT chest normal study. Tuberculin skin test 10mm induration with mild erythema, HIV status negative. Ana profile negative.

DIAGNOSIS: After above investigations and proper history and physical examination, diagnosis of Eales disease is made.

COURSE AND TREATMENT: He underwent laser photocoagulation, kept on prednisolone 80mg daily OD dose. Patient was observed in hospital for 4 days. There was some improvement in vision with improvement in visual acuity and field of vision. Discharged on day 5 and advised to review once in 2 weeks for visual field testing and to taper immunomodulators. Due care is taken in administration of laser photocoagulation. After 2 weeks, during next visit patient vision further improved and prednisolone dose tapered.

DISCUSSION: Eales disease is more common in India with a prevalence of 1/200 in one million population. Disease has association with tuberculosis, CNS pathology (stroke, demyelinating disease) and more common in male gender. It is one of the causes of acute loss of vision. Other causes include sub acute myelo optic neuropathy, giant cell arteritis, vitreous hemorrhage, neuromyelitis optica (Devic’s disease), acute glaucoma. This case illustrates the potential for complete and irreversible loss of vision, if not diagnosed and treated with photocoagulation and steroids early. Although this condition is rare, it was a predictable diagnosis of exclusion. Early recognition of this disease is critical to institute appropriate therapy and prevention of permanent vision loss.

CONCLUSION: Because of timely diagnosis of this disease, timely intervention and treatment, patient is able to recover completely and is performing his daily activities.

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