Needle aspiration of a traumatic subperiosteal haematoma of the orbit

Subperiosteal haematomas of the orbit are an uncommon cause of proptosis after trauma. Complications include diplopia, persisting mass, and compressive optic neuropathy. Treatment options include observation, needle aspiration, and surgical evacuation. In symptomatic patients without indications for orbital exploration, treatment with needle aspiration is less invasive than surgical drainage. We report a case of a traumatic subperiosteal haematoma successfully treated with needle aspiration, demonstrating that in appropriate patients, needle aspiration can result in resolution of symptoms without a more invasive procedure.

A 9 year old girl presented with diplopia 4 days after falling off a fence and striking the right side of her face. She denied decreased visual acuity, eye pain, or previous history of diplopia or proptosis. Her past medical and ocular histories were unremarkable.

On examination, her visual acuity was 6/6 in both eyes. Pupils were equal and reactive with no afferent pupillary defect. Intraocular pressure was normal in both eyes. Her right eye was displaced inferotemporally, and Her- tel exophthalmometry showed 3 mm of proptosis of the right eye. The right eye was restricted in upgaze. External examination of the left eye, anterior segment examination of both eyes, and fundus examination of both eyes were normal.

Computed tomography (CT) of the orbits revealed an oval mass along the roof of the right orbit measuring 3.1 cm × 1.1 cm (Fig 1) with no bone discontinuity or fracture. Clinical history and CT were consistent with the diagnosis of subperiosteal haematoma. The patient was observed, and on follow up examination a week later she described increasing diplopia. Her eye continued to be displaced (Fig 2A), and there was restriction in upgaze, medial gaze, and lateral gaze. Treatment was recommended because of progression.

Drainage of the haematoma was performed by needle aspiration.1-2 With the patient under general anaesthesia, a 22 gauge, 1.5 inch needle on a syringe was advanced transcranially into the superior orbit lateral to the superior orbital notch until blood appeared in the syringe; 7 ml of dark red blood returned. The proptosis immediately resolved. On the first postoperative day, she had no proptosis or diplopia. Visual acuity was 6/6, and extraocular movements were full. She remained asymptomatic with a normal examination (Fig 2B) at the 6 month follow up visit.

Comment

Orbital subperiosteal haemorrhages are rare, resulting from rupture of subperiosteal vessels or extension of subgaleal haematomas.2-3 Haematomas develop acutely or within days of orbital trauma. Clinical findings include acute proptosis, limitation of motility, and compressive optic neuropathy.1 Chronic complications may occur from infection, expansion, strabismus, chordoidal folds, or persisting mass.4 CT demonstrated a well defined, extraconal, blood dense mass adjacent to an orbital wall. Magnetic resonance imaging identified stages of blood degradation and differentiated blood from neoplasms. Differential diagnosis includes subperiosteal abscess, rhabdomyosarcoma, orbital pseudotumour, lymphangi- oma, carotid cavernous fistula, arteriovenous malformation, orbital haematoma, or frontal sinus mucocele.

Management options include observation, needle aspiration, and surgical evacuation. Small haemorrhages without decreased vision may be observed for spontaneous resolution. Intervention is recommended for compressive optic neuropathy, progressive proptosis, suspicion of a tumour, or rebleed.1 Drainage has been performed successfully through needle aspiration1-2 and surgical evacuation.4 Needle aspiration is less invasive, but does not remove clots or stop active bleeding. Orbital exploration allows removal of coagulated blood, drain placement, and fracture repair. In a review of 11 cases in the literature, six patients underwent needle aspiration, four patients underwent surgical evacuation, and one case spontaneously resolved after 6 months.3

Subperiosteal haematoma of the orbit must be considered in the differential diagnosis of unilateral proptosis after trauma. Haematomas can be observed when vision is not threatened. However, early intervention can hasten the resolution of symptoms and prevent chronic complications. Needle aspiration in appropriate cases is a successful and minimally invasive method of treatment.

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Figure 1 CT scan demonstrates a well circumscribed mass in the right superior orbit.

Figure 2 (A) Preoperative photograph shows proptosis and inferotemporal displacement of the right eye. (B) One week postoperative photograph demonstrates resolution of proptosis and displacement.

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Drug induced acute myopia with supraciliary choroidal effusion in a patient with Wegener’s granulomatosis

Acute transient myopia with shallowing of the anterior chamber is a rare idiiosyncratic response to systemic and topical use of many medications including sulphonamides. Although many such cases have been reported in the past, they have been relatively rare in recent years. A-scan ultrasonography has been used to measure anterior chamber depth and lens thickness during the myopic phase. Ultrasound biomicroscopic (UBM) imaging during the acute phase has only been reported twice. We present a case of drug induced bilateral transient myopia with shallow anterior chambers, where UBM aided in the diagnosis and provided clues to the mechanism responsible for this reaction.

Case report

A 39 year old white woman complained of acute onset of blurry vision and decreased visual acuity at distance over a 4 days period. On the morning of the day she presented to her primary ophthalmologist, he found to have a myopic shift of 7.00 dioptres in both eyes and was noted to have narrow angles. She was referred the same day to JD for treatment of bilateral angle closure.

Her medical history was significant for Wegener’s granulomatosis diagnosed 1 year earlier and confirmed with a renal biopsy. She had been treated with Cytoxan and prednisone, despite which renal failure ensued. Approximately 4 months before presentation the patient had begun haemodialysis and 1 month before presentation she was started on peritoneal dialysis. The patient was maintained on a regimen of immunosuppressives, which included Cytoxan and prednisone. Twelve hours before presentation, she had received the first dose of Bactrim (160 mg trimethoprim and 800 mg sulphamethoxazole) as prophylaxis for Pneumocystis carinii. Her examination was significant for mild dehydration. The patient had recently noted a negative fluid balance on peritoneal dialysis. The patient had a negative family history for glaucoma and her social history was not contributory. On examination (at approximately 4.30 pm on the day of presentation), visual acuity with her current correction of −6.00 −1.75 × 173° right eye and −4.00 −2.25 × 180° left eye was 20/20 in both eyes. Manifest refraction improved visual acuity to 20/20 in both eyes with −9.25 −2.00 × 180° right eye and −8.00 −2.25 × 180° left eye. Confrontational visual fields were intact. External examination revealed normal lids in both eyes. Conjunctival chemosis was present in both eyes. Pupils were 4 mm reactive in both eyes with no afferent pupillary defect. Slit lamp examination revealed normal corneas.

Anterior chambers were shallow in both eyes. Goldmann applanation tonometry revealed intraocular pressure (IOP) of 25 mm Hg right eye and 26 mm Hg left eye. Zeiss four mirror gonioscopy was performed and revealed slit angles in both eyes. Indentation gonioscopy opened the angle to +1 right eye. No PAS could be observed. Indentation gonioscopy of the left eye opened the angles slightly more, however only the top of the trabecular meshwork could be visualised. Undilated funduscopic examination with a 90° D lens revealed an intact posterior pole. The optic nerves appeared to have small central cups in both eyes.

References


Figure 1

Creamy white stellate lesions on the tarsal plates.
Ultrasound biomicroscopy was subsequently performed (Fig 1), and confirmed the presence of shallow anterior chambers with narrow angles in both eyes. The angle opening distance (AOD) (distance between the posterior corneal surface and anterior iris surface measured 500 μm from the scleral spur) was measured on the UBM images according to Pavlin. AOD was less than 10 μm in both eyes. In addition, anterior chamber depth (ACD) was measured in one available image right eye and was found to be 1.7 mm. A ciliochoroidal effusion extending in all quadrants was present in both eyes. The ciliary body appeared slightly engorged and rotated anteriorly.

The patient was advised to discontinue Bactrim and was treated with fluorometholone and topical aqueous suppressants. On the following day, the anterior chambers were slightly deeper and the myopic shift was now only 2.25D. This further decreased over the following days with progressive deepening of the anterior chamber. One week after discontinuation of Bactrim, the patient’s visual acuity was 20/20 in both eyes with her old prescription. Zeiss four mirror gonioscopy revealed grade IV open angles with some very fine PAS in the inferior angle in both eyes. Goldmann applanation tonometry revealed 10P of 10 mm Hg in both eyes off aqueous suppressants. UBM was repeated (Fig 2), confirming complete resolution of the choroidal effusion and significant reduction in the size of the ciliary body. AOD was 203 μm right eye and 240 μm left eye. Dilated fundus examination revealed normal periphery, normal discs with a cup to disc ratio approximately of 0.2 both eyes, and normal macula in both eyes.

Comment

We report a case of acute transient myopia in a patient with renal failure secondary to Wegener’s granulomatosis, treated with sulphonamides. The development of acute myopia in patients with renal failure from nephropathy epidemic (NE) cause by the Puumala virus has been documented. NE is the most common systemic condition associated with acute transient myopia. The Puumala virus multiplies in capillary endothelial cells, causing endothelial wall damage and increased capillary permeability to plasma and red blood cells. Leaky capillaries lead to ciliary body oedema and subsequent forward displacement of the iris-lens diaphragm, which is responsible for acute myopia, shallowing of the anterior chamber, and acute angle closure. To our knowledge acute myopia and ciliary body oedema due to renal failure has not been described as an ocular manifestation of Wegener’s granulomatosis, or as a direct consequence of acute renal failure in the presence of Wegener’s granulomatosis. The onset of increased myopia immediately after the initiation of sulphonamide therapy and the resolution of symptoms after discontinuation of Bactrim points to a causative relation between these agents and the acute myopic shift seen in our patient. Although a relation between Wegener’s granulomatosis and the development of acute myopia cannot be completely ruled out, such a relation is unlikely. Nevertheless, one cannot rule out a possible interaction between the use of sulphonamides and any effects of Wegener’s granulomatosis in the eye.

Transient myopia is a rare idiosyncratic reaction to systemic administration of sulphonamides. The myopic shift is usually bilateral and is completely reversible after discontinuation of the sulphonamide therapy. Various degrees of anterior chamber shallowing and angle narrowing have been reported. The proposed mechanisms responsible for this myopic shift are: (1) spasm of accommodation, (2) lens oedema, (3) ciliary body oedema with associated choroidal effusion. Of these proposed mechanisms, spasm of accommodation is the most unlikely, as cycloplegic instillation almost never abolishes the refractive error change in medication induced acute transient myopia.

Lens oedema can be partially responsible for the drug induced acute myopic shift. Such oedema can theoretically occur from osmotic changes or metabolic alterations produced by sulphonamides. However, lens oedema is not present in all cases of sulpha drug and other drug induced acute myopia. Even when lens oedema is present, it cannot always fully explain the change in refraction, which is sometimes up to 7 dioptres, and the degree of anterior chamber shallowing in some patients. Although we cannot completely rule out lens oedema as a possible mechanism, as we did not perform A-scan measurements, we believe that the anterior rotation and oedema of the ciliary body causing an anterior movement of the lens can fully explain the myopic shift seen in our patient.

The UBM images support this proposed mechanism for the pathogenesis of acute drug induced myopia. The oedematous ciliary body became anteriorly rotated secondary to a choroidal effusion. This caused anterior movement of the lens-iris diaphragm with subsequent shallowing of the angle. Oedema of the ciliary processes might have also caused relaxation of the zonules leading to an increase in lens thickness and forward displacement of the anterior lens surface further into the anterior chamber. AOD (a measure of angle dimensions) decreased almost to zero during the acute attack for our patient. In addition, ACD in the right eye was significantly decreased to only 1.7 mm. Upon resolution of the symptoms, AOD returned to what is considered to be a normal range (normal range 185–665 μm).

This is the third reported case of acute myopia where ultrasound biomicroscopy has aided in the diagnosis of this extremely rare drug reaction. Although, this condition generally has a benign course if recognised early, it can potentially have devastating consequences if left untreated or misdiagnosed as primary angle closure glaucoma. Physicians should be aware of this side effect of sulphonamides and their derivate and warn patients to report changes in their vision when initiating therapy with such agents. 

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Cutaneous presentation of orbital follicular lymphoma: clinical differential diagnosis with lymphocytoma cutis

Cutaneous involvement from primary orbital lymphoma is uncommon. We report a patient with follicular lymphoma of the orbit who presented initially with cutaneous lesions clinically resembling lymphocytoma cutis which subsequently proved to be metastasis from the orbit.

Case report

A 75 year old woman presented to the dermatologist with a 6–7 month history of lumps on the right and left ears. Examination revealed two soft erythematous nodules, 2–3 cm in diameter behind the right ear and similar symmetrical lesions in both conchal bowls (Fig 1). There was no lymphadenopathy or hepatosplenomegaly. Full clinical examination, chest x-ray, full blood counts, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, U&E, and liver function tests were normal. A biopsy was performed. The clinical impression was that of lymphocytoma cutis and the lesions were treated with intrascleral steroids resulting in prompt resolution leaving behind only flat discoloured areas. However, histology showed a nodular dermal lymphoid infiltrate of centrocyte-like cells with only scanty scattered blasts. Immunophenotypically, the lesional cells were of B cell phenotype (CD20+,

CD79a+, CD10+, bcl6+, CD5−, CD43−, CD23−), overall in keeping with follicular lymphoma, grade 1. On staging investigations there was no evidence of lymphoma in other sites and the lesions were deemed to represent primary cutaneous disease.

Three months later the patient developed progressively enlarging conjunctival lesions near the medial canthus in both eyes (Fig 2A). On examination she had bilateral subconjunctival fleshy lesions measuring about 5 mm. A computed tomograph (CT) scan showed a mass in the inferomedial aspects of the right orbit, extending down the nasolacrimal duct to the nasal cavity and a soft tissue mass confined to left orbit (Fig 2B). The lesion was biopsied and histologically showed features identical to those in the biopsy of the skin lesion: sheets of centrocytes with scanty centroblasts. On immunostain both the cutaneous and the orbital tumours showed the same immunophenotype (CD20+, CD10+, bcl6+, bcl2+, MT2+, CD5−, CD23, CD3−) in keeping with grade 1 follicular lymphoma. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis with primers for immunoglobulin heavy chain rearrangement revealed a prominent monoclonal band in an oligoclonal background. The initial biopsy of the cutaneous lesion on PCR analysis showed a monoclonal band of the same molecular weight. Staging confirmed this to be localised to the orbit but later another plaque-like cutaneous lesion (1 cm in diameter) appeared on her forehead with the same histological, immunophenotypic, and molecular genetic features. The patient was commenced on chlorambucil chemotherapy with prompt resolution of the orbital and cutaneous lesions. She remains well at 18 months of follow up.

Comment

In this unusual case of orbital lymphoma the initial presentation was in the skin. On clinical examination the cutaneous changes were deemed to represent lymphocytoma cutis. The term lymphocytoma cutis stands for Borrelia burgdorferi associated lesions, post-zoster scar reactions, trauma, and those of unknown aetiology. Clinically, they are characterised by flesh coloured to plum red dermal and subcutaneous nodules and plaques as in our case. They can be solitary or multiple. It is more common females (F:M = 3:1), mostly involving the face (70%). Lymphocytoma cutis has also been reported with conjunctival lesions. We would like to stress that despite typical clinical appearance before diagnosis of lymphocytoma cutis is made, full pathological investigation with immunophenotyping and molecular genetic analysis is essential.

In the interval before the clinical appearance of the orbital tumours in our patient the cutaneous lesions were considered to represent a primary follicular lymphoma at this site. This accounts for 10% of cutaneous B cell neoplasms and follows a very indolent clinical course during which it remains confined to the skin. Distinction between primary and secondary involvement is of paramount importance. Secondary cutaneous involvement by follicular lymphoma is not associated with such a favourable prognosis. Morphologically there is no difference between the two; however, the primary cutaneous type is usually bcl-2 negative on immunostaining and the t (14; 18) is hardly ever found. It is therefore regarded by some authors as part of the spectrum of cutaneous marginal zone lymphomas rather than follicular lymphoma.

At clinical presentation of the orbital tumours in our patient, as recommended by EORTC the lesions in the skin were deemed to represent secondary involvement from the primary site in the orbit though orbital lesions were recognised later. On PCR analysis for B cell clonality it was apparent that the two lesions represented the same tumour. Follicular lymphoma in the orbit accounts for 20%–33% of all lymphomas in this site. Its pathological features in the orbit are no

Figure 1 Photograph showing nodule in right conchal bowl with subconjunctival lesion.

Figure 2 (A) Photograph showing subconjunctival lesion. (B) CT scan showing orbital involvement.
different from the lymph node counterparts and, unlike those in the skin, are bcl-2 positive and rare. Early extraorbital spread is regarded as a sign of more aggressive behaviour and a potential indicator for poorer prognosis. Secondary cutaneous involvement from a primary orbital lymphoma is an uncommon event with only one case described in the literature while the primary cutaneous lymphomas occur more frequently.\(^1\)

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