

High astigmatism induced by scleromalacia perforans

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Abstract

We present a case of scleromalacia perforans in an 80-year-old woman. Her vision has deteriorated over the last two years due to progressive astigmatism induced by sclerocorneal thinning.

Introduction

Scleromalacia perforans is a rare entity (4% of scleritis) that is commonly seen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis with extra-articular presentation, especially women [1]. It is characterized by a non-inflammatory, often bilateral progressive scleral thinning which can lead to a lack of scleral tissue revealing bare uvea. It has also been described in a number of collagen and vasculitic disorders such as Wegener's granulomatosis [1], Behcet disease [2] and ankylosing spondylitis [3].

Case report

We present an 80-year-old woman with no previous systemic pathology, presented with bilateral progressive visual loss over the last two years. Her last ophthalmological examination was after uneventful cataract surgery in both eyes, two years ago. No serious pathology was recorded, and her uncorrected visual acuity was 20/25 in both eyes.

During our examination, visual acuity was count fingers in both eyes which would improve to 20/40 with -5.00cyl x 100° in the right eye and -5.00cyl x 110° in the left eye. Slit lamp examination revealed nasal and temporal scleral thinning with uveal show under a thin conjunctival layer (Figure 1A). Moreover, corneal thinning was observed in both the temporal and nasal limbus (Figure 1B) along with the presence of horizontal corneal striae extending throughout the cornea (Figure 1C). Anterior Segment Optical Coherence Tomography confirmed the absence of scleral tissue and the diagnosis of scleromalacia perforans (Figure 1D). The patient was referred for systemic evaluation in which rheumatoid arthritis was diagnosed.

Conclusion

Scleromalacia perforans is a severe eye disorder with insidious onset, slow progression [1,2]. Visual loss can occur due to progressive high astigmatism, cataract, glaucoma or globe rupture (usually following trauma) [1,2]. No therapy has yet proven efficient and patients

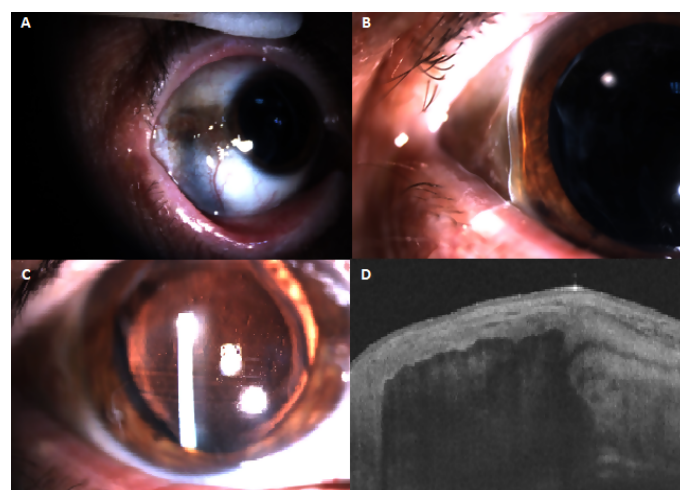


Figure 1 A-D. 1A. Slit lamp examination of patient with scleromalacia perforans showing scleral thinning and uveal show. 1B. Same patient's slit lamp examination revealing cornea thinning at the temporal limbus. 1C. Horizontal cornea striae extending throughout the cornea. 1D. Anterior segment optical coherence tomography revealing absence of scleral tissue

should be warned of globe rupture risk [1]. Eye care specialists should be aware of the induction of progressive astigmatism in patients with scleromalacia perforans.

References

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