

Uveitis

## **ACUTE ZONAL EXTERNAL OCCULT RETINOPATHY AS A LUETIC OCULAR MANIFESTATION**

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**PURPOSE:** Based on a clinical case seen in our setting, the purpose of this communication is to describe a case of ocular syphilis with an uncommon initial manifestation as well as its clinical and imaging features, diagnosis, treatment and evolution.

**METHODS:** We selected a case seen at the University Hospital Infanta Sofía in 2022. A 54yo male with AIDS under antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, diagnosed with right eye cataract, who one month after surgery presented a paradoxical worsening of baseline visual acuity (VA) bilaterally accompanied by nyctalopia.

**RESULTS:** During the exam, we found VA RE 0.03 LE 0.03. Fundus examination showed a bilateral central vitreous organization. OCTm of both eyes showed preserved foveal profile with pachychoroid associated with patchy absence of external limiting membrane, evident focal loss of ellipsoid zone and cysts in outer layers of the RE. Campimetry with practically abolished fields, neuroimaging study, complete serology including antitrecoverin antibodies, and vitreous sample for microbiology were performed. From this study, it was found that the patient had a positive luetic seroconversion within a maximum period of 5 years. With these data, we oriented the differential diagnosis of the described retinopathy towards an infectious or toxic etiology due to ARV drugs as the most probable causes. The patient was treated with penicillin iv with great improvement of vision and nyctalopia.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Ocular syphilis is the great simulator par excellence and although infrequent, it can debut with atypical forms of uveitis.

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