

Clinical manifestation of ocular bartonellosis: a case report

Jamuna Lachumanan, Deivanai Subbiah

Department of Ophthalmology, Hospital Selayang, Batu Caves, Selangor, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Cat scratch disease (CSD) is a systemic illness which is caused by a gram-negative bacillus, *Bartonella henselae* and can have ocular involvement. We present 2 cases with variable, bilateral posterior manifestations of ocular bartonellosis. From March – April 2024, two healthy male patients were diagnosed of bilateral ocular bartonellosis with history of contact with cats, fever and headache before developing ocular symptoms. Diagnosis was supported by evidence of *Bartonella henselae* IgM and/or IgG. The first patient, a 25-year-old presented with right eye (RE) central scotoma, reduced visual acuity (VA) and optic nerve function test (ONFT) over the RE. Ocular examination revealed bilateral neuroretinitis. He was treated with oral Doxycycline for 6 weeks. The second patient, a 42-year-old also presented with RE central scotoma, reduced VA and ONFT over the RE. Upon examination, patient had bilateral optic disc swelling with multiple choroiditis spots and right eye cilioretinal artery occlusion with macula star. He was treated with intravenous ceftazidime for 1 week and oral Cefuroxime for 6 weeks while awaiting serology results. Both patient's VA and ONFT improved dramatically with treatment. *Bartonella* infection may present with an array of ophthalmic manifestation including bilateral neuroretinitis, choroiditis and vascular occlusion. Therefore, *Bartonella henselae* should be considered as a differential diagnosis in those patients with history of cat exposure and empirical antibiotics should be commenced before final serology confirmation of infection for good visual outcomes.