

Herpes simplex geographical ulcer: discovering India's map in eye

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ABSTRACT

To report a case of geographical corneal ulcer. A 51-year-old male with no known co-morbid presented with left eye (LE) redness, blurring of vision, photophobia and tearing for 1 month. He has history of foreign body entered into LE 1 week prior to symptoms onset. His best-corrected visual acuity was 3/60 over LE and 6/9 over right eye with no relative afferent pupillary defect. Slit lamp examination over LE revealed swollen lids with mechanical ptosis and diffuse conjunctival injection. The cornea sensation was slightly reduced. There was huge central corneal ulcer measuring 6.5 mm x 6.2 mm with infiltrate measuring 5.7 mm x 4.0 mm. Fluorescein staining under cobalt blue light showed an epithelial defect which roughly resembles the shape of India map. Right eye was unremarkable. Patient was started on topical antibiotic and cycloplegic. However, during follow-up, patient showed very slow progress and cornea sensation was markedly reduced. A revised diagnosis of Herpes simplex keratitis was made. He was started on oral acyclovir and ointment acyclovir. His condition improved gradually at follow-up appointment with residual scarring remaining and his LE visual acuity improved to 6/18. In severe cases of Herpes simplex keratitis, ulcers can merge to form a distinctive "map-like" shape. Prompt diagnosis and treatment are crucial to prevent complications such as scarring, chronic pain, and increased transmission risk.