

Conjunctival lymphoma masquerading as chronic conjunctivitis

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ABSTRACT

Malignant lesions of the conjunctiva may present with slowly evolving signs resembling inflammation. Rarely, a diffuse clinical presentation is encountered, and this may mimic chronic conjunctivitis. An 80-year-old Chinese man, known case of hypertension and hyperlipidaemia, first presented with complain of right eye (RE) blurring of vision for the past one year. However, he is unsure of onset of duration of RE redness which was noted during eye examination. A diagnosis of conjunctivitis was made and treated with topical antibiotic. He was also diagnosed with RE white cataract. His condition did not improve and developed RE conjunctival swelling. He denied any constitutional symptoms and family history of malignancies. His visual acuity was hand movement in the RE and 20/120 in the left eye. Examination of the RE revealed a diffuse subconjunctival fleshy mass extending from 8 to 4 o'clock over the epibulbar surface. Conjunctival biopsy was performed and histopathology examination showed features of low-grade non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphoma. Immunohistochemistry report was suggestive of marginal zone lymphoma. No systemic organ involvement was detected. The patient was subsequently referred to the haematology team, where he was managed conservatively in view patient was asymptomatic and the lesion was localised. Subsequently, the lesion regressed spontaneously and he is under long term follow-up. Conjunctival lymphoma may rarely present as a diffuse lesion and can be misdiagnosed as chronic conjunctivitis. Therefore, a high index of possibility of malignancy should be kept in mind to avoid oversight and misdiagnosis.