

# Blinking at the unseen: breast cancer metastasis to the eyelid

**Heng Yong Ler<sup>1,3</sup>, Abbas Abd Hamid<sup>1</sup>, Nor Ismarudi Ismail<sup>1</sup>, Amizatul Aini Salleh<sup>2</sup>, Azhany Yaakub<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department Of Ophthalmology, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang, Selangor, Malaysia, <sup>2</sup>Department Of Pathology, Hospital Sultan Idris Shah, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia, <sup>3</sup>Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

Breast cancer is the most common primary tumours for eye or orbit metastatic carcinoma, with eye involvement in 30% of patients with metastatic disease. We report a 72-year-old woman with a mass over the margin of right upper eyelid. She denied of eye redness or blurring of vision. She was diagnosed with stage 4 right breast adenocarcinoma 4 years ago. She underwent right mastectomy 3 years ago and did not receive chemotherapy due to advanced age. On examination, the right upper eyelid was swollen and erythematous. There was a broad-based mass at the palpebral conjunctiva on the temporal side of right upper lid which involved the lid margin. It was measured 1 cm x 2 cm and feeder vessels were present. Corkscrew vessels were seen on bulbar conjunctiva. Computed topography reported avidly enhancing soft tissue at right upper eyelid anterior to the lacrimal gland which was bulky and mildly enhancing compared to the left. Histopathological examination of the lesion revealed diffused infiltration of eyelid tissue by malignant cells with overlying epidermis was atrophic. Immunohistochemical studies of the malignant cells are positive for CKAE1/AE3 and GATA3 in keeping with primary breast carcinoma. The patient was started on topical fluorouracil eye drops. No radiotherapy or chemotherapy was given. The patient deceased 4 months after the ocular symptoms occurred due to the deterioration of the general condition. The most common primary source of orbital metastases in women is breast cancer. Histological combine with immunohistochemical studies are required to confirm the diagnosis.