

(X) R1 () R2 () R3 () PG0 () PG1 () Estagiário () Tecnólogo () PIBIC

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Service (sector)

Cornea and External Disease

Nº CEP

Bilateral Epibulbar Rheumatoid nodulosis

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Purpose: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory systemic disease of unknown etiology characterized by affecting diarthrodial joints accompanied by extra-articular manifestations, including ophthalmologic ones. The common ophthalmologic manifestations are dry eye, anterior diffuse scleritis, nodular scleritis and less commonly acute stromal keratitis, peripheral corneal thinning, acute corneal melting and necrotizing scleritis.

Methods: Case report. A 64-year-old woman has developed painless bilateral red eyes and episcleral rheumatoid nodules without any flare up in her joint disease.

Results: Biopsy of the lesions disclosed a lymphocyte and plasmacytic infiltration within the conjunctiva, overlying palisade granulomas with multinucleated giant cells, and central necrobiotic degeneration of the collagen of episclera and superficial sclera, the picture of a rheumatoid nodule.

Laboratorial analyses were unremarkable.

Conclusion: Episcleral and scleral rheumatoid nodules are often bilateral and develop during the active state of articular disease. Development of nodules in inactive articular disease is termed rheumatoid nodulosis. A literature review showed only one case of episcleral rheumatoid nodules in a rheumatoid factor serum negative patient with no articular symptoms the other 4 cases being serum positive and with concomitant severe active joint disease.