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Service (sector) Uveitis and AIDS N° CEP

Ocular findings in patients with Tuberculosis

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Purpose: To analyze clinical ocular findings in patients with ocular tuberculosis. Methods: We retrospectively reviewed clinical files of patients attending in the Uveitis and AIDS sector – Ophthalmology department – UNIFESP-EPM - São Paulo, Brazil, between January 1999 and July 2002. We included all patients with a Mantoux test greater than 10 mm, a history of exposure to tuberculosis and ocular findings which improved with specific antituberculosis treatment. Results: We analyzed 17 medical files; Twelve patients (70,6%) were women and the median age was 54 years (ranging from 24 – 84 Yo). The prevalence of ocular tuberculosis was 1% of all cases of uveitis. The average time between the start of symptoms and diagnosis was 100 days. The mean of the PPD tests was 18.9mm (12 – 30mm). Forty one percent of the patients presented with systemic symptoms of tuberculosis. Ocular findings at first exam were very pleomorphic, however, most of the alterations were found in the anterior segment of the eye. Complications such as glaucoma, retinal detachment and vitreous hemorrhage were responsible for reduction in the visual acuity. After treatment, the visual acuity improved in 29,4% of the patients, stayed the same in 47,1% and worsened in 23,5% of them. Conclusions: Ocular tuberculosis had a low prevalence but a high morbidity in this study. Concomitant systemic tuberculosis was found in 41% of the patients; clinical manifestation are very variable and, for this reason, ophthalmologists have to pay attention to patient's history, epidemiology and ask for a Mantoux test for additional verification of suspected cases.