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Ocular findings as a first manifestation of chronic myeloid leukemia

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Purpose: To describe a clinical case of monocular sudden blurred vision associated with leukemia. Methods: A 28 years old white female was referred to the ocular emergency room of São Paulo Hospital complaining of sudden blurred vision in her right eye. Her ophthalmologic examination revealed: best-corrected visual acuity was hand motion in the right eye and 20/20 in the left eye. Pupil reflex, extrinsic ocular motion, biomicroscopy and IOP (intra ocular pressure) were normal. Indirect ophthalmoscopic showed macular hemorrhage in the right eye and white-centered retinal hemorrhages in the posterior pole in both eyes. She was referred for the clinical examination to investigate systemic disorders. Anemia, severe leukocytosis and splenomegaly were found. She underwent bone marrow biopsy that diagnosed chronic myeloid leukemia. Results: She had systemic chemotherapy and improved visual acuity to 20/25 in the right eye and had resolution of the retinal findings in both eyes. Conclusion: Ocular involvement is frequent in leukemia. Sometimes the ocular findings are the first manifestation of this systemic disorder. Early diagnosis and treatment increase the chances of a favorable outcome.