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Ocular Findings in Patients with Syphilitic Uveitis

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Purpose: To analyze the ocular findings in patients with syphilitic posterior uveitis with and without HIV infection examined at the Uveitis/AIDS Sector at Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). Material and methods: Retrospective study. Charts from 38 patients (29 with HIV infection) with clinical and serological diagnosis of syphilitic posterior uveitis were atualized. Demographic data as well as risk factors were considered for evaluation. Ocular examination included: visual acuity, biomicroscopy and indirect ophthalmoscopy. Results: From the 29 (77%) HIV infected patients, 83% were male. Ocular examination disclosed that 34% had keratic precipitates, 31% anterior chamber reaction and 5% posterior uveitis (24% choroidal scar, 17% vitreitis, 10% RPE changes, 3% macular edema, 3% optic atrophy). From the HIV negative patients, 44% were male. Ocular examination disclosed that, 56% had keratic precipitates, 56% anterior chamber reaction and 89% had posterior uveitis (67% vasculitis, 11% RPE atrophy, 22% papilite).

Conclusion: From the HIV infected patients that had systemic syphilis only 27% developed syphilitic posterior uveitis, while from the HIV negative patients, we found that 89% presented syphilitic posterior uveitis.