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The ocular importance of the early treatment of carotid-cavernous fistula in a child

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Carotid-cavernous fistulas (CCF) is a clinical entity rarely seen in the childhood with uncertain clinical course and prognosis. We report a 3-year-old girl presented with right eye hyperemia, proptosis, decreased visual acuity, pulsation and bruit. Arterialization of episcleral vessels was observed by slit lamp examination and venous stasis retinopaty was found at fundus examination. Ocular Doppler ultrasonography revealed enlarged right superior ophthalmic vein and arterialization of Doppler wave form. Magnetic resonance imaging demonstrated a markedly enlarged right superior ophthalmic vein. CCF was evident by cerebral angiogram. The fistula was successfully closed by an endovascular coil embolization three months after the diagnosis. After one month patient showed increased visual acuity, and no more signs of hyperemia and proptosis. This case outlines the importance of early diagnosis and prompt treatment in pacients with CCF.