

Ocular manifestations of syphilis and visual outcome after treatment: A 7-year single site review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: To review the incidence ocular manifestations, demographic, comorbidities and visual outcomes of ocular syphilis. **Materials and Methods:** Retrospective review of medical records of patients treated for ocular syphilis in Hospital Shah Alam from 1st January 2017 till 31st December 2023. **Results:** A total of 20 patient, involving 36 eyes were diagnosed with ocular syphilis. Mean age was 32.2 ± 8.154 . Only two patients were female (10%). 15 patients (75.5%) had HIV co-infection, in which 11 patients (55.5%) were newly diagnosed. The ocular manifestations include panuveitis (21 eyes, 58.3%), posterior uveitis (8 eyes, 22.2%), intermediate uveitis (5 eyes, 13.9%), and interstitial keratitis (2 eyes, 5.6%). None were a recurrent episode. One patient refused treatment while patients 17 patients were treated with IV Benzylpenicillin 4MU 4 hourly for 14 days, and 2 other with IV ceftriaxone 2g OD for 14 days. Seven eyes presented with vision of 3/60 or worse, in which three eyes improved to 6/12 or better after treatment. No eyes had vision 3/60 or worse after treatment. **Conclusion:** Panuveitis is most common manifestation in ocular syphilis. And HIV coinfection is not uncommon. Visual prognosis with treatment is good despite poor presenting visual acuity.