Necrotising Anterior Scleritis and Scleroderma: A Rare Association

Authors : Angeliki Vassila, Dimitrios Kalogeropoulos, Rania Rawashdeh, Nigel Hall, Najiha Rahman, Mark Fabian, Suresh Thulasidharan, Hossain Parwez

Abstract : Introduction: Necrotising scleritis is a severe form of scleritis and poses a significant threat to vision. It can manifest in various systemic autoimmune disorders, systemic vasculitis, or as a consequence of microbial infections. The objective of this study is to present a case of necrotizing scleritis associated with scleroderma, which was further complicated by a secondary Staphylococcus epidermidis infection. Methods: This is a retrospective analysis that examines the medical records of a patient who was hospitalised in the Eye Unit at University Hospital Southampton. Results: A 78-year-old woman presented at the eye casualty department of our unit with a two-week history of progressively worsening pain in her left eye. She received a diagnosis of necrotising scleritis and was admitted to the hospital for further treatment. It was decided to commence a three-day course of intravenous methylprednisolone followed by a tapering regimen of oral steroids. Additionally, a conjunctival swab was taken, and two days later, it revealed the presence of S. epidermidis, indicating a potential secondary infection. Given this finding, she was also prescribed topical (Ofloxacin 0.3% - four times daily) and oral (Ciprofloxacin 750mg – twice daily) antibiotics. The inflammation and symptoms gradually improved, leading to the patient being scheduled for a scleral graft and applying an amniotic membrane to cover the area of scleral thinning. Conclusions: Rheumatoid arthritis and granulomatosis with polyangiitis are the most commonly identifiable systemic diseases associated with necrotising scleritis. Although association with scleroderma is extremely rare, early identification and treatment are necessary to prevent scleritis-related complications.

Keywords : scleritis, necrotizing scleritis, scleroderma, autoimmune disease
Conference Title : ICOO 2024 : International Conference on Ophthalmology and Optometry
Conference Location : Nicosia, Cyprus
Conference Dates : November 04-05, 2024