Clinical Findings of the Posterior Uveal Effusion Syndrome

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Financial Disclosures

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• Steven Cohen, MD: Genentech (S), Ophtec (S) Thrombogenics (S), TOGA Trial Group (S), US Retina (O), Allergan (S), Alcon (S), Drug Delivery Company LLC (O)
• Karina Findlay, MD: Genentech (S), Ophtec (S) Thrombogenics (S), TOGA Trial Group (S), US Retina (O), Allergan (S), Alcon (S)
• David Eichenbaum, MD: Genentech (S,L,C), Ophtec (S) Thrombogenics (S,C), TOGA Trial Group (S), Allergan (S,L,C), Hemera Biosciences (O), US Retina (O), Alcon (S)
• Michael Lopez, MD: No disclosures
Purpose and Introduction

• To characterize the clinical findings of the Posterior Uveal Effusion Syndrome (PUES), a macular effusion associated with pachychoroid
• Posterior uveal effusion has been reported in the primary uveal effusion syndrome\(^1\) and as an isolated macular effusion.\(^2\) As an underappreciated phenomenon, we present the clinical findings and associations in a small case series

Patho-anatomy of PUES

- Effusion of fluid from a hyperpermeable, thick choroid
- Effusion passes from the choroid through a break-down in the blood ocular barrier at the disc margin where the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) is attenuated (arrow)
- Macular edema results from effusion extending into intra-retinal space due to atrophy of outer retina overlying the RPE attenuation
- Subfoveal fluid results from macular edema extending through external limiting membrane into subfoveal space
Methods

• Retrospective case series (N=7)
• Data analysis: visual acuity, fundus features, optical coherence tomography, fluorescein angiography.
• Signs of central serous choroidopathy and uveal effusion syndrome were identified.
• Inclusion criteria: Pachychoroid with cystic edema (+/- subfoveal fluid) contiguous to peripapillary atrophy
• Exclusion criteria: All other known causes of macular edema and/or subretinal fluid
Peripapillary Atrophy
No hemorrhage
Rare exudates
Note: drusen unrelated to PUES
Fluorescein/Indocyanine Green Angiography

FA: Hyperfluorescence of peripapillary atrophy without evidence of retinovascular or RPE leak

ICGA: Hypercyanescence of drusen without definite sign of leakage. Late views may show hyperpermeability
Thick choroid with attenuation of retinal pigment epithelium (imaged OD) and outer retina temporal to the optic disc allowing effusion to pass from choroid into the neurosensory retina resulting in intra-retinal edema (seen OU) and secondary subretinal fluid (OS)
Results

- Age (years): range 56-80
  - mean 70, median 73
- Gender: 6 male, 1 female
- Axial length (mm): range 20.63-22.69
  - mean 22.05, median 22.41
- Visual acuity: range 20/16 to 20/800
  - mean 20/90, median 20/35
- Subfoveal choroidal thickness (microns): range 338-712
  - mean 544, median 543
- Macular edema: 14/14 eyes
- Subfoveal fluid: 7/14 eyes
- Associated findings: None 2/7, PED 1/7, CSC 2/7, CSC/UES 1/7, UES 1/7
- Positive response to treatment: Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (2 cases), photodynamic therapy (one case)
- Follow-up (months): range 1-18, mean 8.7, median 7
Conclusions

• Posterior uveal effusion syndrome (PUES) presents with thick choroid and macular edema temporal to the disc with peripapillary atrophy

• PUES is better termed pachychoroid macular effusion (PME) as it may be seen in isolation, with central serous choroidopathy, or with uveal effusion syndrome