Orbital Inflammatory Pseudotumor Associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis

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A 50-year-old man was admitted for an evaluation of polyarthralgia. Physical examination showed tenderness and swelling on bilateral wrists and several metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints. Additionally, a high serum level of rheumatoid factor resulted in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Before initiating treatments, the patient presented acute daily-progressive swelling in his right eye (Picture A), which had been absent on admission. Physical examination determined right-side proptosis, ptosis and restricted eye movements. T2-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (axial/coronal) demonstrated inflammation diffusely involving fat tissues in his right orbit (Picture B, C), suggesting the possibility of orbital inflammatory pseudotumor (OIP), which can coincide with autoimmune diseases including RA that can produce autoantibodies targeting orbital tissues (1). OIP typically shows acute onset, unilateral involvement and rapid progression (2). The symptoms gradually improved after initiating 30 mg/day prednisolone, which is the mainstay treatment for OIP (2), after ruling out infections, thyroid diseases and malignancies.

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References


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