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Reply: The “Pitchfork Sign” a Distinctive Optical Coherence Tomography Finding in Inflammatory Choroidal Neovascularization

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Dear Editor,

We appreciate the opportunity to further discuss our recent report on the “Pitchfork Sign”, a distinctive optical coherence tomography (OCT) finding in inflammatory choroidal neovascularization (CNV), Retina 2013; 33:1049–1055.¹ in particular, to respond to the interest and letter from Vagge et al., who noted similar hyperreflective finger-like projections from type 2 neovascularization in the setting of vitelliform macular dystrophy (VMD).

Of interest, the case in their report, as well as a prior case reported by de Mello et al. in the setting of CNV associated with choroidal osteoma,² the “pitchfork” occurred in areas of subretinal hemorrhage. In the current case described by Vagge et al., it appears that thick subretinal hemorrhage and possibly fibrin may be distorting the outer retina, producing the OCT findings. In the four cases in our original series,¹ there was little to no hemorrhage present.

The main purpose of our original manuscript¹ was to describe an OCT finding that would be helpful in distinguishing cases of multifocal choroiditis / punctate inflammatory choroidopathy (MFC/PIC)-related CNV from idiopathic or myopic CNV where the diagnosis was uncertain. In Vagge et al.’s report, and de Mello et al.’s case,² there are known predisposing risk factors for CNV; therefore, although the presence of this OCT finding is interesting, it is of less clinical relevance when the diagnosis is clear.

References

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