CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Sudden Unilateral Impairment of Vision

Fundoscopic image: the optic papilla is yellowish-white, intraretinal hemorrhages are seen all over the retina (dark spots), and the veins are engorged. Normal findings at right.

A 77-year-old woman presented to a hospital ophthalmology service with sudden impairment of vision in the right eye. In a test of visual acuity, she could only read the upper lines of the eye chart with the right eye. Fundoscopy revealed disseminated intraretinal hemorrhages and macular edema due to central retinal vein occlusion. She underwent eye surgery for the intravitreal administration of a VEGF inhibitor, as well as isovolemic hemodilution. An assessment for cardiovascular risk factors was positive for smoking (60 py), hypercholesterolemia (296 mg/dL), and WHO stage I arterial hypertension; none of these conditions had been treated.

Central retinal vein occlusion usually arises in persons with advanced vascular disease. The affected patients should undergo cardiovascular evaluation.

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Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that no conflict of interest exists.

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