

Etanercept associated optic neuritis

Yo-Chen Chang,^{1,2,3} Kuo-Jen Chen,³ Li-Yi Chiu, MD,¹ Wen-Chuan Wu,^{1,2}

¹Department of Ophthalmology, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Taiwan; ²Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan; ³Department of Ophthalmology, Kaohsiung Municipal Hsiao-Kang Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan

Financial interests: none

Background:

To report a case of optic neuritis and choroiditis caused by etanercept therapy, recovered after discontinuation of etanercept.

Patients & Methods:

A retrospective case report and review of previous literature in PubMed database.

Results:

A 47-year-old male presented with sudden onset right eye blurry vision. He was on treatment with etanercept due to ankylosing spondylitis for 2 months. Uveitis with macular edema and optic neuritis of right eye were diagnosed after slit lamp examination, optical coherence tomography, fluorescein angiography, auto-perimetry and brain MRI. The clinical picture persisted after pulse therapy with intravitreal injection of methylprednisolone, however, the edema of optic disc and macular area resolved gradually after withdrawing etanercept.

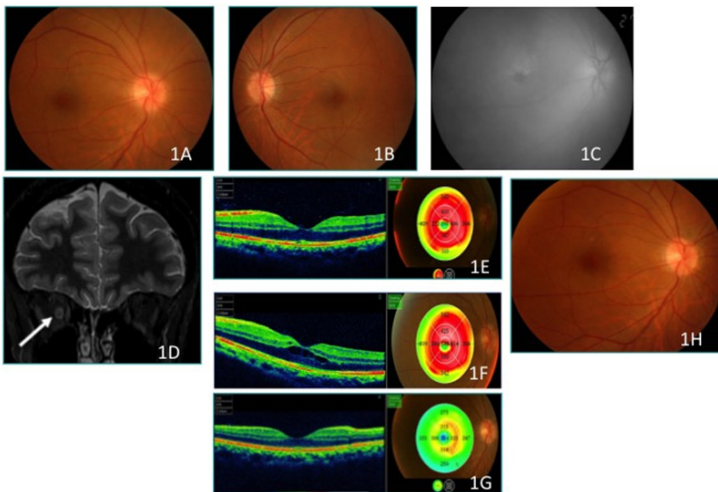


FIGURE 1:

- 1A: Right eye disc margin blurry and mild flame shape hemorrhage over temporal lower disc margin.
- 1B: Fundus in the left eye was unremarkable.
- 1C: Fluorescein leakage over macula and disc.
- 1D: MRI revealed optic nerve swelling.
- 1E: OCT showed paramacular edema before treatment.
- 1F: Persistence of paramacular edema after pulse therapy.
- 1G: Paramacular edema resolved after discontinuation of etanercept.
- 1H: Disc edema and hemorrhage resolved after discontinuation of etanercept.

Conclusions:

Incidence of inflammatory eye disease following etanercept should be aware, if clinical evaluation leads to the diagnosis of etanercept associated eye disease, especially vision threatening such as optic neuritis, discontinuation of the medication and starting anti-inflammatory treatment should be a priority.