Characteristics and Clinical Course of Multiple Sclerosis-Associated Uveitis in Patients Presented with Ocular Findings

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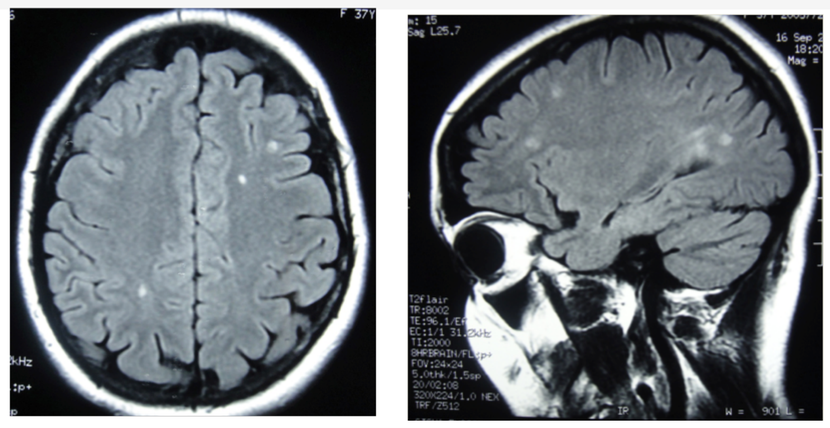
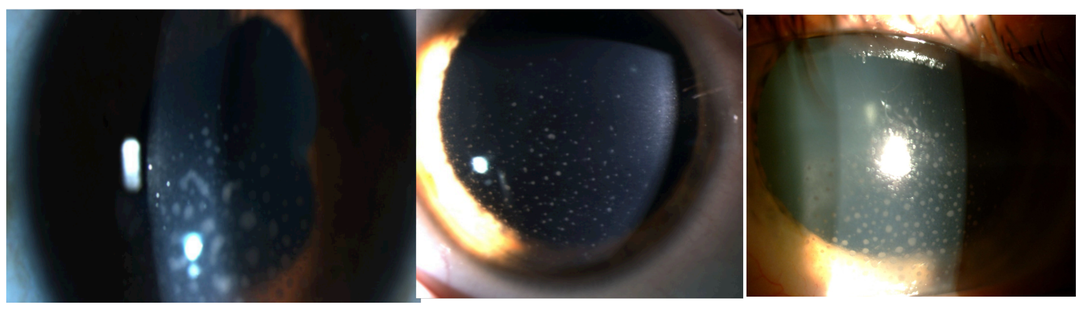
Background: To describe the demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) associated uveitis, in whom the diagnosis of uveitis preceded the diagnosis of MS.

Patients & Methods: Medical records of 30 patients (60 eyes) presented with ocular inflammatory signs suggestive of MS and had the definitive diagnosis after magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and neurological evaluation, were retrospectively reviewed.

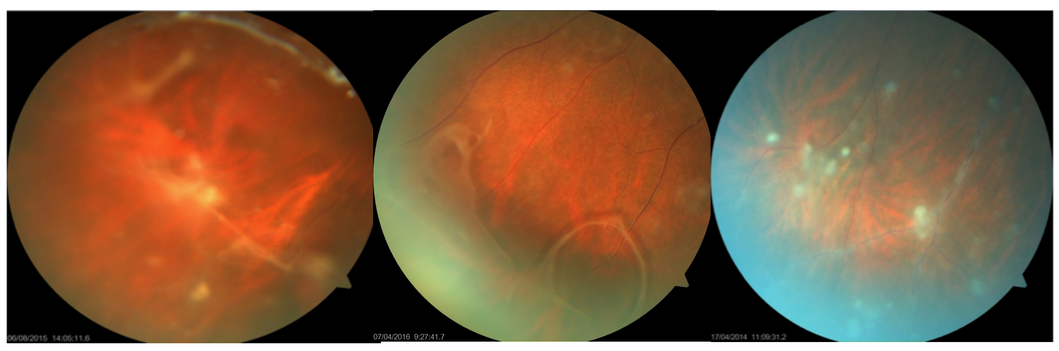
Results: The mean follow-up period was 45.5 (1-186) months. The mean time interval between the diagnosis of uveitis and MS was 22.4 (1-144) months. Anatomically, uveitis was anterior in 4(13.3%), intermediate in 2(6.7%), posterior in 12(40%) and panuveitis in 12(40%) patients. Uveitis was granulomatous in 17(56.7%) patients. Vitritis in 23 (76.7%), retinal vasculitis in 22 (73.3%) and snowball opacities in 11(36.7%) patients were the most common ocular findings. The mean recurrence rate was 1.90±1.52. BCVA was ≥0.6 in 35 (58.3%) eyes at the first visit and 43 (71.7%) eyes at last visit. Cataract (22 eyes, 36.7%), cystoid macular edema (15 eyes, 25%), epiretinal membrane (8 eyes, 13.3%), and retinal vein occlusion (8 eyes, 13.3%) were the most common complications. Systemic (±topical) corticosteroids±immunosuppressive treatment was the most commonly used treatment approach.



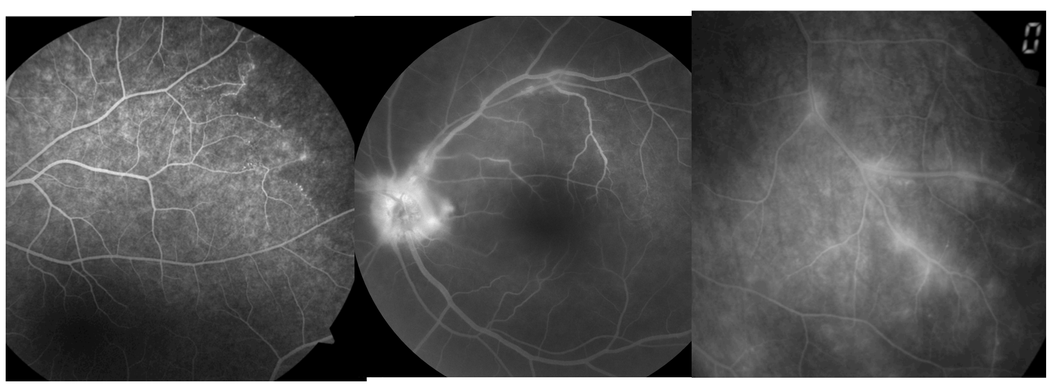
MRI images showing demylinating lesions



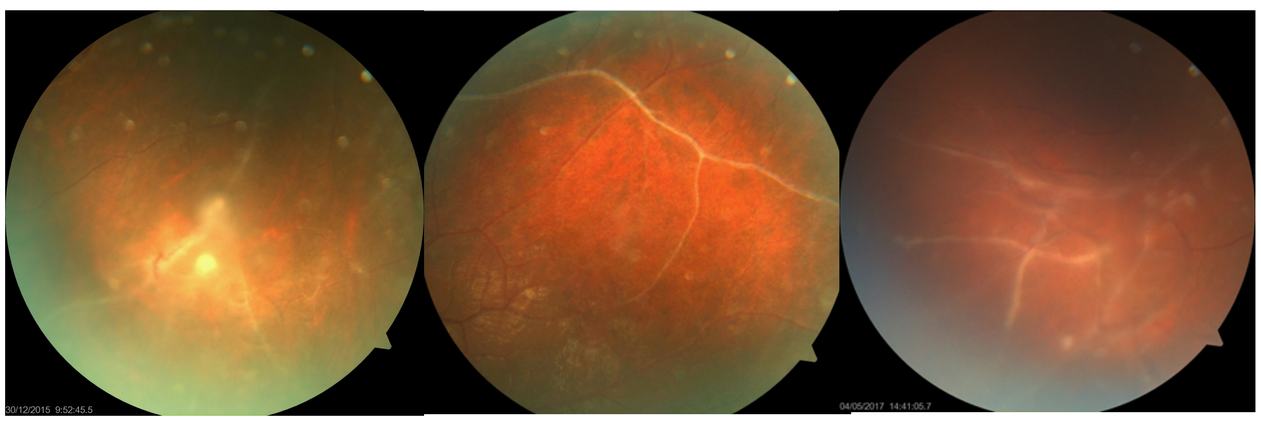
Granulomatous anterior uveitis



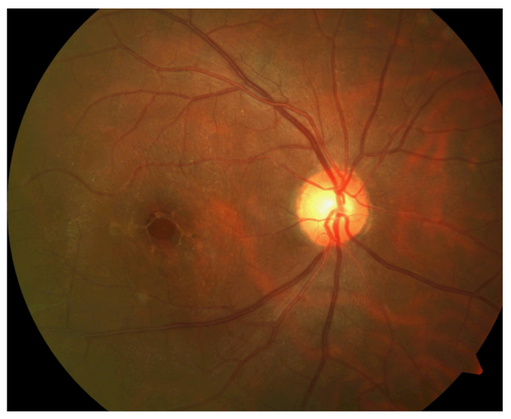
Snowballs, peripheral retinal vasculitis and membranes

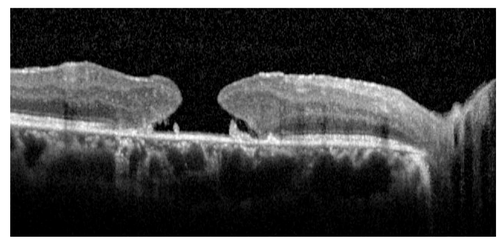


FA images showing peripheral retinal ischemia, retinal vasculitis and optic disc leakage in MS associated uveitis



Peripheral retinal vasculitis in MS associated uveitis





Macular hole developed due to CME

Comments: Our results showed that MS may present with ocular findings first. Posterior segment involvement is present in 80% of patients and retinal vasculitis is the most common finding. The time interval for definitive diagnosis of MS may be as long as 12 years.

Conclusions: Patients having ocular findings highly suggestive of MS should be followed closely. Retinal vasculitis ±granulomatous anterior uveitis is the most common ocular presentation of the disease and the visual prognosis is quite good despite the development of ocular complications.