Multifocal Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy
in Caribbean and African-Americans

Editorial

Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy (PCV) is a relatively uncommon form of exudative Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) first described in 1990 by Yannuzzi et al. [1]. It presents as multiple, branching networks of small, polyp-like clusters, or larger identifiable characteristic polyp-like out-pouchings. Manifestations include lipid exudation, serosanguinous pigment epithelial detachments and sub-retinal hemorrhage. Indocyanine-Green (ICG) angiography has been said to be the necessary for delineating the polypoidal vascular abnormalities, but recently hi-resolution spectral domain Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT) has been demonstrated to perhaps be diagnostic as well [2]. Recently it has been associated with a pachychoroid [3].

The vast majority of cases noted and reported on have involved Asians (in whom it is a very common form of exudative AMD) and Caucasians [4-8]. We have examined, imaged and treated a different ethnic and underserved population of Caribbean and African-Americans who display a different form of PCV. It is characterized by its multifocal nature, prominent hypertrophic pigmentary scarring, abundant circinate lipid exudation, and large polyps. Just two such cases have been reported in the literature in 2016 [9], Both of which were males. Furthermore, a thickened, pachychoroid is usually associated with PCV. We reported a unique case of PCV ARMD in the setting of chronic polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy. It presents as “Black” Serpiginous retinochorioidopathy, as there is no prior or coincident ocular inflammation. Our cases respond well to anti-VEGF intravitreal injection, owing to their pathological vasculogenic nature. It may come to pass that our observations will lead to a better understanding of ethno-racial differences that exist in PCV. We may ascertain new genetic markers. Further, its distinct patterns may lead to a change in classification of PCV, and addition of a category that may come to be known as Multifocal PCV. There are some late-cases that are so striking that they may be aptly considered as “Black” Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy.

References