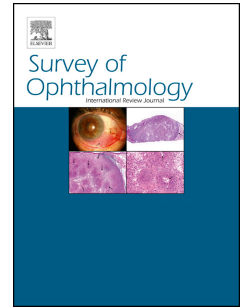


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Clinical Challenge: An Orbital Hickam's Dictum

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Clinical Challenge: An Orbital Hickam's Dictum

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(In keeping with the format of a clinical pathologic conference,
the abstract and key words appear at the end of the article.)

Case Report:

A 53-year-old white man with hyperthyroidism and hemochromatosis was referred by his comprehensive ophthalmologist for evaluation of proptosis and diplopia. The patient first noted bulging of the eyes approximately 18 months prior to presentation at the time of his hyperthyroid diagnosis. In addition to exophthalmos, the patient complained of chronic redness and irritation of the medial aspect of the left eye and diplopia which varied depending on gaze. He had been treated with antibiotic ointment and with two courses of oral methylprednisolone prior to referral. Neither treatment alleviated his symptoms.

Given the patient's symptoms, what disease entities would you be considering at this point?

Comments**Comments by Jurij R Bilyk, MD:**

The most common cause of unilateral or bilateral exophthalmos in an adult is thyroid eye disease (TED). This patient also has a known history of thyroid dysfunction and notes that his ocular symptoms coincided with his thyroid disease. By far, the leading diagnosis for his periocular findings is, not surprisingly, TED.

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