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Original article

Case series of ocular involvement due to dengue. First reported cases in Guatemala[☆]



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ABSTRACT

Objective: Describe the ocular findings of a case series of 8 patients with a diagnosis of dengue.

Materials and methods: Review of clinical records and interviews with patients during outpatient visits, after informed consent was obtained and following the ethical standards of the Helsinki declaration. The patients were diagnosed with diagnosis by IgM/IgG dengue serology in whom ocular involvement was identified, between January and October 2017 in Retinal-vascular clinic of the “Dr. Rodolfo Robles Valverde Hospital”, Guatemala.

Results: The 8 patients, 5 men and 3 women from rural areas in Guatemala, were diagnosed with dengue by IgM/IgG serology with associated ocular involvement. The mean age was 32.3 years, with the oldest being 45 years old and the youngest being 20 years old. The ocular manifestations identified were, 4 neuroretinitis, 3 venous obstructions, 3 maculopathies, 2 serous detachments, 1 episcleritis, and 1 vasculitis. Two patients developed optic atrophy after resolving the neuroretinitis, and 1 developed peri-foveal scarring after the maculopathy. The ocular involvement was resolved in all patients after treatment, with an improvement in visual acuity, although in some cases damage to the visual field developed as a sequela of neuroretinitis.

Conclusion: It is necessary to consider dengue as an important differential diagnosis in an endemic country such as Guatemala. There are a large number of ocular manifestations due to direct involvement, as well as by an immune system reaction, and thus avoid considering the different ocular manifestations as idiopathic, or due to a different condition.

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Serie de casos de afección ocular por dengue. Primeros casos publicados en Guatemala

R E S U M E N

Palabras clave:

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Retina

Objetivo: Describir los hallazgos oculares en una serie de casos de 8 pacientes con diagnóstico de dengue.

Materiales y métodos: Revisión de expedientes clínicos y entrevistas con pacientes durante visitas en consulta externa con consentimiento informado y siguiendo las normas éticas de la declaración de Helsinki, con diagnóstico de dengue por serología IgM/IgG en los que se identificó afección ocular, durante el periodo de enero a octubre del 2017 en la clínica de retinovascular del Hospital Dr. Rodolfo Robles Valverde, Guatemala.

Resultados: Ocho pacientes originarios del interior del país (área rural) fueron diagnosticados con dengue (por serología IgM/IgG) asociado a afección ocular. Todos con una media de edad de 32,3 años de edad, siendo el mayor de 45 años y el menor de 20 años; de los cuales 5 son hombres y 3 son mujeres. Las manifestaciones oculares fueron 4 neurorretinitis, 3 obstrucciones venosas, 3 maculopatías, 2 desprendimientos serosos, una epiescleritis y una vasculitis. Dos pacientes desarrollaron atrofia óptica después de resolver la neurorretinitis y un paciente desarrolló cicatrización perifoveal después de la maculopatía. Todos resolvieron el cuadro clínico ocular después del tratamiento, presentando una mejoría en agudeza visual, pero en algunos casos se produjo daño al campo visual por la neurorretinitis.

Conclusión: Es necesario tener en cuenta el dengue como un importante diagnóstico principal en un país endémico como lo es Guatemala, considerando la amplia cantidad de manifestaciones oculares que puede presentar tanto por afección directa como por la reacción del sistema inmunitario, y así evitar clasificar como idiopático el cuadro clínico presentado o que sea atribuido a otra entidad.

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Introduction

Guatemala is a country with a high prevalence of vector-borne diseases; dengue and its 4 serotypes present the highest prevalence and incidence, predisposing an increased risk of complications.^{1,2} Within these complications there are several presentations in the eye, the most common being maculopathies, venous obstructions, neuroretinitis and vasculitis, which occur from the first days until months after the acute period of the disease. The following article reports on the first cases published and documented in Guatemala of ocular affection by dengue.

Subjects, material and methods

Cases of 8 patients with informed consent and following the ethical standards of the Declaration of Helsinki, with diagnosis of dengue by means of IgM/IgG serology, that presented associated ocular affection and were attended in the Retinovascular clinic of the Dr. Rodolfo Robles Valverde Hospital of Guatemala between January and October 2017. The institution is regarded as a national reference ophthalmology center with considerable influx of patients from all over the Guatemalan territory.

Results

Eight patients are presented, 5 males and 3 females, with ages ranging between 20 and 45 years, with an average of 32.3 years. All came from rural areas (Table 1). All the patients were diagnosed with dengue through a serological test with IgM/IgG and exhibited ocular compromise in accordance with the classic dengue clinical display.² The period of appearance of ocular compromise after presenting dengue symptoms ranged from 2 to 8 weeks (Fig. 1). Five patients consulted due to unilateral visual acuity decrease. One patient exhibited diminished visual acuity in the contralateral eye 2 weeks after the first, 2 patients consulted due to central vision distortion and one consulted due to myodesopsia. The ocular expressions are described below.

Three patients presented neuroretinitis, with one exhibiting the same symptoms in the contralateral eye 2 weeks after the first eye (Fig. 2). The 3 patients underwent complementary tests to rule out other causes of neuroretinitis.³ Treatment consisted of 50mg of oral prednisone daily for 6–8 weeks, which resolved all the clinical conditions, although 2 patients showed secondary optic atrophy (Table 1).

Three patients presented retinal vein occlusion, 2 being central veins and one venous branch. One of the patients with central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) was classified as

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