

UVEITIS AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH SYSTEMIC DISEASES 2004

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Executive Summary

Uveitis as a clinical entity, though treatable and curable, is potentially dangerous. This is because it can be responsible for various complications like Secondary glaucoma, Cataract, Band keratopathy, Cystoid macular edema. All these are potentially blinding. Uveitis is a group of, probably autoimmune, conditions predominantly occurring in the working age group. Although the etiology is unknown in most cases, Uveitis as a diagnosis may conceal an underlying systemic disease, an infection or an ocular syndrome. Studies on the epidemiology of such secondary forms of uveitis are rare. This study aimed to analyze the frequencies of such secondary forms based on patients' visits to the uvea clinic, Regional institute of ophthalmology, Trivandrum.

This hospital based retrospective case control study included 61 cases with verified uveitis who presented at the Uvea clinic, RIO and 114 controls without uveitis from October 2007 and January 2008. All patients were interviewed using a semi structured questionnaire. The analysis was performed with regards to the following parameters: underlying systemic disease, infection, ocular syndrome.

Among the study variables Arthritis (OR-6.55), rheumatic fever (OR-5.94), skin lesions (OR-4.66), recurrent backache (OR-6.91), GIT symptoms (OR-3.66) and allergy (OR-3.7) was found to have significant association with uveitis. In study group 24% patients has recurrence and infectious uveitis was found to be 5%. Since uveitis is often seen in association with systemic diseases, finding out the strength of the association will be the first step in Primordial prevention of this 'Preventable' disease. Obviously this should be followed by prevention and/ or treatment of the underlying disease. The review encompasses uveitis encountered in association with systemic disease in clinical practice.