

IRREVERSIBLE LENALIDOMIDE RELATED OPTIC NEUROPATHY IN A PATIENT WITH CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

Purpose: We present a case of lenalidomide related optic neuropathy.

Method: Case report and literature review

Results: A 70 year-old female presented with decreased visual acuity in her right eye of 3/60 (20/400) with a right relative afferent pupillary defect. Vision in the left eye was 6/9 (20/30). She had unilateral disc swelling.

She has a background of chronic myeloid leukaemia, diagnosed 17 years ago. Until two months prior to presentation, she had been taking the chemotherapy agent imatinib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. For the last six months, she had also been on a trial of lenalidomide, a derivative of thalidomide with anti-angiogenic, anti-osteoclastogenic and immunomodulatory activity.

Our differential diagnoses for this case included; giant cell arteritis, infiltrative optic neuropathy, infection in the setting of immunosuppression, non-arteritic ischaemic optic neuropathy and drug induced optic neuropathy.

After thorough investigation failed to reveal a cause for the presentation, a diagnosis of lenalidomide related optic neuropathy was made.

Conclusion: This is the first case report describing a case of irreversible lenalidomide related optic neuropathy.