Primary hyperparathyroidism presenting as redness of eyes

Keywords: Primary hyperparathyroidism; Red eye; Scleritis

Red eye is a common presenting complaint. However, hyperparathyroidism presenting with redness of the eyes as an initial manifestation is unusual [1].

A 38-year-old gentleman was referred for evaluation of severe hypercalcemia. The patient had initially presented to an ophthalmologist with a gradually developing redness of both eyes along with easy fatigability. Slit lamp examination confirmed the presence of bilateral scleritis with a retinal haemorrhage. There was no evidence of an infective or inflammatory cause. Antinuclear antibody and rheumatoid factor were negative and serum complement was normal (80%). ESR was not elevated. CBC and bone marrow evaluation was normal. Biochemical investigations repeatedly showed elevated serum calcium levels: 3.65, 3.77 and 3.22 mmol/L on consecutive days (2.07–2.6 mmol/L), a low serum phosphorus of 0.67 mmol/L (0.80–1.45 mmol/L) and an elevated serum alkaline phosphatase of 932 U/L (40–120 U/L). A serum PTH was markedly elevated at 2770 ng/L (72 ng/L–120 U/L). Ultrasound of the neck showed a left inferior parathyroid adenoma that was confirmed with a technetium sestamibi scan. The unusual feature in this particular patient’s presentation included the presence of red eyes as one of the initial manifestations leading to the diagnosis of hyperparathyroidism. The resolution of redness of eyes was achieved with definitive treatment for hyperparathyroidism.

References
