Optical Coherence Tomographic Angiography of Choroidal Neovascularization Associated With Central Serous Chorioretinopathy

Choroidal neovascularization (CNV) can complicate chronic central serous chorioretinopathy (CSC) and may be difficult to diagnose because CSC itself can be associated with pigment epithelial detachment, subretinal fluid, and ill-defined patterns of hyperfluorescence on fluorescein angiography (FA).1,2 Structural optical coherence tomographic (OCT) techniques such as en face OCT have been used to identify CNV but the vascular contrast is low, limiting image detail.3 This case report describes OCT angiography of CNV in chronic CSC.

Methods | Macular angiograms (3 × 3 mm) were obtained using spectral-domain OCT (70 kHz; RTVue XR; Optovue). The split-spectrum amplitude-decorrelation angiography algorithm was used to distinguish blood flow from static tissue, and angiograms were segmented into 3 vascular slabs: inner retinal, outer retinal, and choriocapillaris as described in detail previously.4 Choroidal neovascularization was defined as flow in the outer retinal slab between the Bruch membrane and outer plexiform layer. Choriocapillaris angiograms were based on flow signal within 10 μm below the Bruch membrane. The parafoveal retinal vessel density and CNV area were calculated as previously described.4,5 The Oregon Health and Science University Institutional Review Board approved the study. All patients provided written informed consent.6

Figure 1. Detection of Choroidal Neovascularization Associated With Chronic Central Serous Chorioretinopathy by Optical Coherence Tomographic (OCT) Angiography

A-C, Color fundus photograph (A), midphase fluorescein angiogram (FA) (B), and midphase indocyanine green angiogram (ICGA) (C) of central serous chorioretinopathy (box). D-F, Optical coherence tomographic angiograms of retinal vessels (purple) and choroidal neovascularization (yellow) presented en face (D) and with structural OCT at sections noted in panel D (E and F). E, Circle indicates the focal choriocapillaris defect.
Board approved the study protocol, and written informed consent was provided.

**Results** A man in his late 60s with chronic CSC returned for follow-up examination. Visual acuity was 20/25 OD and 20/400 OS. In the right eye, chronic juxtafoveal subretinal fluid persisted for 2 years without treatment. Findings consistent with CSC included choroidal hyperpermeability with indocyanine green angiography (ICGA) as well as absence of drusen and polyps. The left eye had poor vision due to CNV complicating CSC, raising concern for the right eye. However, there was no hemorrhage or exudate in the right eye, and findings on FA and ICGA were nondiagnostic for CNV (Figure 1A–C).

En face OCT angiography of the right eye revealed an outer retinal vascular network corresponding to the area of staining on FA (Figure 1B and D). Cross-sectional OCT angiograms demonstrated type I CNV (Figure 1E and F). Focal areas of reduced choriocapillaris flow were evident on cross-sectional OCT angiograms (Figure 1E) and en face OCT angiograms (Figure 2C and F) that partially correlated with regions of hypofluorescence on ICGA (Figure 1C).

The retinal circulation appeared normal (Figure 2A and D). Three weeks after treatment with intravitreous bevacizumab, retinal vessel density increased by 5.5% from the pretreatment value, a difference of similar magnitude to previously published intervisit reproducibility of 3.55% standard deviation. The initial CNV area calculated from OCT angiographic scans measured 1.44 mm²; 3 weeks after the patient received intravitreous bevacizumab, the area was reduced to 1.21 mm² (a 16% reduction). Subretinal fluid on structural OCT also improved. Comparing pretreatment vs posttreatment en face angiograms, several peripheral vascular loops in the CNV faded (Figure 2B and E). The choriocapillaris defect appeared smaller after treatment (Figure 2C and F).

**Discussion** Optical coherence tomographic angiography provides a novel way to potentially detect CNV. In this case, OCT angiography identified CNV associated with CSC, while findings on structural OCT, FA, and ICGA were nondiagnostic. Because OCT angiography detects CNV by depth (flow in outer retina), it is not dependent on specific dye leakage patterns. Future studies with OCT angiography may reveal higher rates of CNV associated with chronic CSC than previously suspected.
The OCT angiograms showed reduced CNV flow area and CNV vessel loss following treatment. Because retinal vessel density did not decrease, reduced areas of CNV flow likely represent therapeutic effect.

Optical coherence tomographic angiography can also be used to evaluate blood flow of the choriocapillaris. In healthy eyes, the choriocapillaris appears confluent on OCT angiograms. In this case, areas of reduced choriocapillaris flow were noted. Choroidal ischemia has been proposed as a precursor to CNV. Further study is needed to determine whether reduced choriocapillaris flow is associated with chronic CSC and whether it may increase risk of CNV development.

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Published Online: July 2, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2015.2226.
Author Contributions: Dr Bailey had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.
Study concept and design: McClintic, Huang, Bailey.
Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: McClintic, Jia, Bailey.
Drafting of the manuscript: McClintic, Bailey.
Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: All authors.
Obtained funding: Jia, Huang, Bailey.
Administrative, technical, or material support: Huang, Bailey.
Study supervision: Huang, Bailey.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: All authors have completed and submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. Dr Jia reported having financial interest in Optovue, which provided equipment used in the study, and having a patent pending for quantification of vascular abnormality with OCT angiography (US provisional patent application 62/138,196). Dr Huang reported having stock options with Optovue; receiving research equipment and a research grant from Optovue; receiving patent royalties from Optovue and Carl Zeiss Meditec; and having a patent pending for quantification of vascular abnormality with OCT angiography (US provisional patent application 62/138,196). Dr Bailey reported receiving study equipment from Optovue. No other disclosures were reported.

Funding/Support: This work was supported by grants RO1EY024544 (Drs Jia and Bailey), D5KDK04397 (Dr Jia), ULTR00128 (Dr Huang), and RO1EY023285 (Dr Huang) from the National Institutes of Health and an unrestricted grant from Research to Prevent Blindness.

Role of the Funder/Sponsor: The funders had no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript; and decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

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Outcomes of an Algorithmic Approach to Treating Mild Ocular Alkali Burns

Ocular alkali burns can cause corneal blindness. They typically occur in young males in accidents or assaults, and the most common agents include lye, ammonia, magnesium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, and lime. Treatment indicated at the time of injury is irrigation to return the pH to normal, but the optimal care following pH normalization is less well defined and, to our knowledge, has not been studied in clinical trials. In 2013, we proposed a clinical algorithm for treatment of acute ocular alkali burns to standardize their treatment, specifically defining the use of topical corticosteroids, oral vitamin C, oral doxycycline, bandage contact lenses, and amniotic membrane (Figure). We now describe our initial results with this algorithm at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Emergency Department and show that the algorithm sped the time to restoration of best-corrected visual acuity following mild ocular alkali injuries.

Methods | On approval of the Human Studies Committee of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, we reviewed the electronic medical records of patients who presented to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Emergency Department within 2 years prior to and 1 year after institution of the algorithm (June 1, 2013). Informed consent was not required owing to the retrospective nature of the study. We included patients burned with a known alkali agent or, if the agent was unknown, those with an ocular surface pH greater than or equal to 7.4 at presentation or documented in the medical record from an outside emergency department. Cases were categorized a priori in 2 ways: (1) best-corrected visual acuity at final visit worse than 20/30, vs equal to or better than 20/30; and (2) time to best-corrected visual acuity of more than 2 weeks, vs equal to or less than 2 weeks. To avoid mixing paired data (2 eyes from the same patient) with unpaired data, the initially worse eye in bilaterally injured patients was chosen for analysis by the 2-tailed Fisher exact test.

Results | Our sample included 28 patients (35 eyes) and 15 patients (17 eyes) who matched the inclusion criteria during the 2 years prior to and 1 year after institution of the guideline, respectively. Patient demographic characteristics are summarized in the Table. All patients reported normal vision prior to injury. Not all burns prior to institution of the management protocol were graded by the examining physician, but all patients included after the protocol was instituted had grade 1 burns by Roper-Hall criteria. All patients before and after institution of the guideline had their eyes irrigated immediately and were seen at our facility within several hours of injury. Treating alkali-burned eyes with the guideline showed an increased proportion of patients whose visual acuity...