

Dexamethasone

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***Candida albicans* endogenous endophthalmitis due to off-label use: case report**

A 61-year-old woman developed *Candida albicans* endogenous endophthalmitis during off-label treatment with dexamethasone for COVID-19.

The woman presented to the clinic with a 15-day history of progressively decreased vision, pain, and redness in her left eye. One month before, she was hospitalised in the ICU for 20 days and received systemic off-label dexamethasone [*dosage and route not stated*] and off-label favipiravir for the treatment of COVID-19. At current presentation, her best-corrected visual acuity was 20/20 in the right eye and counting fingers at 3 meters in the left eye. Intraocular pressure was 15mm Hg. On slit-lamp examination, 1+ cells were observed in the anterior chamber. Further, fundus examination showed multiple creamy-white intravitreal lesions in the vitreous and retina. Based on her medical history and clinical findings, endogenous endophthalmitis was suspected.

Subsequently, performed a vitreous tap of her left eye with empirical amphotericin, vancomycin and ceftazidime. Thereafter, the vitreous specimen culture yielded *Candida albicans*. PCR test of the vitreous sample was negative for SARS-CoV-2. After positive culture for *Candida albicans*, a second dose of amphotericin was added to the treatment. Additionally, she had been receiving prednisolone acetate and cyclopentolate [cyclopentolate hydrochloride] for her left eye. Thereafter, visual acuity improved to 20/40, and no signs of vitreous infiltrates and the chorioretinitis lesion regressed, after 2 weeks of treatment. Two weeks after admission, amphotericin was discontinued and treatment was continued with fluconazole. During follow-up, at 3 months, the best-corrected visual acuity was 20/25 and no inflammatory reaction was observed in the anterior chamber or vitreous. Eventually, her *Candida albicans* endogenous endophthalmitis was suspected secondary to dexamethasone [*time to reaction onset not stated*].

Kaderli ST, et al. Endogenous Fungal Endophthalmitis in a Patient Admitted to Intensive Care and Treated with Systemic Steroid for COVID-19. Turkish Journal of Ophthalmology 52: 139-141, No. 2, 28 Apr 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.4274/tjo.galenos.2022.04324>

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