Reviewer's report

Title: Purtscher-like Retinopathy Associated with Dermatomyositis

Version: 1 Date: 28 March 2013

Reviewer: Martin McKibbin

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a case of bilateral Purtscher retinopathy associated with dermatomyositis. The association may be novel but there is a growing number of single cases that have been seen in association with a range of other autoimmune / connective tissue diseases. The most striking feature of this report are the fluorescein angiography images. The findings of these images are striking and worthy of publication alone.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The list of investigations in both the abstract and the body of the article is long and probably not necessary. Both sections could be shortened by including only the relevant findings in keeping with the diagnosis of dermatomyositis.

2. The conclusion of the abstract does not follow the case presentation. The author states that this is a rare complication of dermatomyositis and that there is limited evidence of benefit from treatment. Therefore the criteria for screening are not met.

3. The description of the fundus photgraphs and the angiography images may not be entirely correct. I cannot see optic disc swelling in Figure 1. It may be better to concentrate on the most striking findings. Annotation of the images to help identify the Purtscher flecken with the characteristic clear zone may be helpful. These are often under-recognised.

4. Similarly there is hypofluorescence in both maculae and around the optic discs in figure 2. Although some of this may be the result of blocked fluorescence caused by the retinal whitening, the hypofluorescence appears to extend beyond the area of retinal whitening. This findings, together with the very obvious occlusion of the pre-capillary arterioles, would suggest capillary non-perfusion.

Minor Revisions

1. The authors may wish to state that the diagnosis of Purtscher retinopathy is based on the characteristic findings and a likely systemic association.

2. There is some staining of the vessels in the temporal macula in figure 2 but it is unclear if these are venules or arterioles.

3. A recent paper in the journal, Eye, pointed out that Purtscher flecken are often missed. This could be included as a reference.
4. There are a number of typographical errors.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests