Reviewer's report

Title: Necrotizing anterior uveitis, anterior scleritis and ischaemic optic neuropathy in association with Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome

Version: Date: 2 11 June 2007

Reviewer: Steven Katz

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

General

The authors report a case of panuveitis associated with streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. It is an interesting and informative case; however, it is unfortunate that the patient was not evaluated by ophthalmology until day 36 of her admission at which point she did not appear to have an active uveitis and had already developed optic atrophy (of unknown etiology). The etiology of the optic atrophy can only be presumed to be ischemic optic neuropathy. There is a tremendous review of "Poststreptococcal Syndrome Uveitis: A Descriptive Case Series and Literature Review" in Ophthalmology, April 2006, 113(4), pp.701-706 that reviews 10 cases from 3 different hospitals over a 7 year period. These are compared and tabulated with 15 previous reports from the literature. While Konstantinos and colleagues report an interesting case, they fail to site the the most thorough and current review in the literature. Furthermore, they claim to report "a previously unreported association of necrotizing anterior uveitis, anterior ischemic optic neuropathy and anterior scleritis" in a post-streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. One third of the patients in the series reported by Rehman et al. had posterior segment involvement including vitritis, optic disc swelling, cotton wool spots, retinal hemorrhages, choroiditis or retinitis. Panuveitis (with both anterior and posterior segment involvement) is relatively common in the post-streptococcal uveitis syndrome.

Revisions necessary for publication

What next?: Reject

Quality of written English: Acceptable