УДК: 61:615.1(043.2)
ББК: 5:52.82
А 43
ISBN: 978-985-21-0765-5

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RETINAL DETACHMENT IN PROGRESS OF COATS DISEASE

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Coats disease is a sporadic eye disorder characterized by abnormal development of the blood vessels in the retina, which is the result of massive intraretinal and subretinal lipid accumulation. This idiopathic condition is common among young males, particularly in their first and second decade of life. Early onset is often associated with a severe course of the disease. Nowadays there is a variety of methods for treating Coats disease such as: anti–vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) injections, surgery, laser therapy or cryotherapy – all can be used in combination. The choice of the most appropriate modality primarily depends on the stage of the disorder. Coats disease, especially untreated, can lead to progressive vision loss, glaucoma and retinal detachment. A 15-year-old patient presented with a gradual diminution of vision in his right eye with previous diagnosis of Coats disease seven years before. During those few years after having been diagnosed he had several laser photocoagulation and cryotherapy performed. Ocular examination on presentation revealed a vision of 4/50 in his right eye, the vision in his left eye was preserved. The conjunctiva of the eye was moderately irritated. Slit lamp examination revealed no specific findings in the anterior segment, while fundoscopy was characteristic to retinal detachment. The scleral buckling and cryotherapy were performed.

In sudden vision impairment it is important to consider less typical diseases such as Coats disease. Vision loss is a traumatic complication with life-changing impact. Even during strict monitoring of the patient, results of therapy may not be satisfactory. However delaying and therefore, giving the patient more time with preserved vision has a positive impact on patients well being.