

Development of Posterior Uveitis in Behçet Syndrome Patients with Vitreous Cells without Any Other Posterior Involvement

Didar Ucar^{1,2}, Basak Ecem Bircan³, Nigar Rustamli³, Bilge Batu Oto¹, Vedat Hamuryudan^{2,4}, Sinem Nihal Esatoglu^{2,4}, Gulen Hatemi^{2,4}

¹Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology, ²Behçet Disease Research Center, Istanbul, Turkey, ³Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, ⁴Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Istanbul, Turkey

BACKGROUND

- A considerable number of patients with Behçet syndrome have vitreous cells on slit lamp examination at the time of diagnosis.
- However, the prognostic importance of vitreous cells and their association with the development of posterior uveitis requiring immunosuppressive treatment is unknown.

METHODS

144 consecutive BS patients fulfilling ISG criteria who were registered between 2010 and 2011

AT BASELINE VISIT

3 had no eye involvement

66 had bilateral pan or posterior uveitis

9 had insufficient data

59 patients had vitreous cells in one eye or both eyes, without other posterior findings

42 patients with a follow-up of ≥ 2 years were included in this study

RESULTS

42 included patients
(23 men, mean \pm SD age: 30.3 ± 8.7 years)

22 had vitreous cells in both eyes

10 had vitreous cells in only 1 eye

10 had vitreous cells in 1 eye and posterior uveitis in the other eye

7 had anterior uveitis in addition to vitreous cells in the same eye at baseline.

After a mean follow-up of 1.8 ± 1.2 years

- 4 of 10 patients with vitreous cells in one eye and posterior uveitis in the contralateral eye developed bilateral posterior uveitis despite treatment
- 4 patients that developed posterior uveitis in the eye with vitreous cells had anterior uveitis in the same eye at baseline.

OVERALL

New posterior uveitis developed in 13/42 (31%) patients

CONCLUSION

- Careful follow-up is required for patients with vitreous cells since almost one third developed posterior uveitis within 2 years.
- The presence of posterior uveitis in the contralateral eye and anterior uveitis in the same eye may be risk factors for the development of posterior uveitis in patients with vitreous cells.