



Ocular Problem in Chikungunya Virus Infection: A Problem to be Concerned in the Present Day

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Arbovirus infection is the present public health problem worldwide. There are many problematic arbovirus infections at present. The arbovirus is mainly transmitted by mosquito, hence, the arbovirus disease is considered important group of tropical disease. The good examples are Zika virus, dengue virus and Chikungunya virus (CHIKV). The CHIKV virus infection is an important tropical mosquito borne infection [1,2]. It is endemic in several tropical countries. This arbovirus infection has its clinical spectrum similar to dengue. The patient might present with febrile illness and might have hematological abnormality. The significant joint problem, especially arthralgia, is observable. The diagnosis of CHIKV infection might be difficult and sometimes misdiagnosed as other arbovirus infection if there is no confirmation laboratory test.

An interesting concern for CHIKV infection is the atypical clinical presentation. Similar to other arbovirus infections, the ocular presentation is considered an important but little mentioned clinical problem in CHIKV infection. In a recent report from Puerto Rico [3], many ocular symptoms and signs were reported in the patients with CHIKV infection. Ulloa-Padilla, *et al.* found that conjunctivitis was the most common ocular complain in the patients with CHIKV infection. Although uncommon, more serious problem such as uveitis [3-5] can be seen. Of interest, in a recent report from India, Mahendradas, *et al.* found that iridocyclitis and retinitis are the two most common ocular problems due to CHIKV infection [5]. Ulloa-Padilla, *et al.* concluded that "Systemic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer, may increase the risk of such ocular manifestations. Routine ophthalmic evaluation is warranted in patients with these medical conditions [3]". The way to manage the ocular problem due to CHIKV infection is still not conclusive. Some serious problem such as retinitis might not respond to antiviral therapy or steroid treatment but self-limited [6]. Since the CHIKV infection has been already observed in non-tropical countries due to global-

ization, the practitioner should aware the ocular presentation of CHIKV infection, which might be the chief complaint of the patient. On the other hand, when one has to deal with the patient with confirmed CHIKV infection, the eye examination to search for possible ocular problem might be useful.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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