Malignant hypertension presenting as blunted vision in a 43 year old intravenous drug abuser

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Abstract

A 43 year old intravenous drug abuser presented to the accident and emergency department with a three week history of bilateral visual loss and frontal headaches. Fundoscopy revealed bilateral retinal cotton wool spots and haemorrhages and an ophthalmic opinion was requested. His blood pressure was subsequently found to be 210/140. A diagnosis of malignant hypertension was made and blood pressure was gradually controlled on oral antihypertensives. This case illustrates the importance of checking the blood pressure of all patients presenting with visual loss.

Case report

A 43 year old man presented to the accident and emergency (A&E) department with a three week history of bilateral blurred vision and frontal headaches. He was a long standing intravenous heroin abuser and attended because of difficulty in seeing to inject. In his past history he had received a brain contusion injury after a road traffic accident two years previously. He had recently been found to be hepatitis C positive, although he had not received any treatment for this. He was otherwise well.

On examination in the A&E department, his vision was found to be reduced to 6/24 in the right eye and 6/36 in the left eye (normal 6/6 or 10/6).

Keywords: malignant hypertension; visual loss

treatment can lead to disseminated disease and systemic complications.22

Primary muscle abscess is a rare condition but must be considered as a cause of muscle pain especially around the hip.

Accidental ingestion of Ecstasy by a toddler: unusual cause for convulsion in a febrile child

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Abstract

The case is reported of a toddler who presented with an apparent febrile convulsion. The final diagnosis was that of accidental ingestion of Ecstasy. The child made an uneventful recovery. Ecstasy toxicity should be added to the list of differential diagnoses in a child presenting with fever and an unexplained seizure.

Keywords: Ecstasy; toddler; accidental ingestion