

Viral Conjunctivitis Produces Deep Orbital Inflammation

By Will Boggs MD | June 08, 2015



NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Epidemic adenoviral keratoconjunctivitis (EKC) can be associated with inflammation beyond that seen on the conjunctival surface, a new case report suggests.

"Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis may infect the conjunctival surface, but it produces a more deep seated infection of the orbital tissues than is generally realized," Dr. Jonathan C. Horton from University of California's Beckman Vision Center in San Francisco told Reuters Health by email.

"In fact, the MRI images suggest that it spreads to the lacrimal gland and nasolacrimal duct. That's one of the reasons that some patients have so much tearing -- their nasolacrimal duct is blocked," he said.

Dr. Horton and coauthor Dr. Steven Miller did not set out to investigate the MRI findings of EKC. Instead, their 36-year-old male patient incidentally developed EKC the day before his annual MR scan to monitor his optic nerve meningiomas.

Besides the meningiomas, the scan revealed edema in all layers of the eyelid, contrast enhancement of the anterior orbit, enlargement of the lacrimal gland, and thickening of the mucosa and loss of the air signal within the lumen of the nasolacrimal duct on the side of the affected eye, the researchers report in *JAMA Ophthalmology*, online May 28.

"He has not had another MRI scan," Dr. Horton said. "The next one is not due for a long time. But one can safely assume that all the changes resolved because he's back to normal."

SOURCE: <http://bit.ly/1Fy0e3I>

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