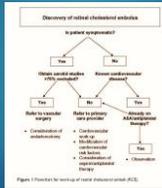


Approach to a Retinal Cholesterol Embolus



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Tips: Giant Cell Arteritis

- ▶ Suspected GCA is an ophthalmic emergency
 - ▶ Risk to fellow eye
 - ▶ Risk to life
- ▶ Symptoms and blood tests are often non specific
- ▶ Be concerned about any patient >60 yo presenting with transient visual symptoms or severe painless vision loss
- ▶ Symptoms
 - ▶ HA, temporal tenderness
 - ▶ Jaw claudication
 - ▶ Scalp tenderness
 - ▶ Muscle stiffness, pain

Tip: Longstanding Type 1 Diabetics

- ▶ Beware longstanding Type 1 diabetics!
- ▶ More likely to have a very ischaemic fundus with minimal signs than type 2 who tend to have an exudative fundus



Tips: Papilloedema

- ▶ True papilloedema v pseudopapilloedema can be difficult to distinguish
- ▶ Is the disc hyperaemic?
- ▶ Are there microvascular abnormalities on surface of disc?
 - ▶ Dilatation/telangiectasia/ flame haemorrhages on disc surface
- ▶ Is there blurring of the retinal blood vessels?
 - ▶ In pseudo-swelling the blurring of the disc usually results from deeper abnormalities (e.g. buried drusen) so the retinal vessels, which are superficial, are clearly visible as they cross the disc margin. In true papilloedema the vessels may be obscured due to swelling of the more superficial retinal nerve fibre layer

Tips: "Unexplained" Vision Loss

- ▶ Field defects obeying vertical meridian need neuroimaging
- ▶ All patients with unexplained vision loss should have visual field and OCT
- ▶ Where the vision does not "tally up" remember to double check:
 - ▶ Cornea: Keratoconus
 - ▶ Lens: Subtle Cataract/ (Blood glucose level)
 - ▶ Macula: OCT
 - ▶ Optic Nerve/ Visual pathways: Visual field and RAPD

Honourable Mentions!

- ▶ Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma
- ▶ Pupil involving third nerve palsy