Shlomo Dotan, J Clin Exp Ophthalmol 2018, Volume 9
DOI: 10.4172/2155-9570-C10-105

Update on optic neuritis

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Optic neuritis is one of the most common symptoms observed in various central nervous system inflammatory demyelinating diseases, which can occur in isolation or indicate an underlying disease, such as multiple sclerosis (MS) or neuromyelitis optica. Patients typically present with acute to subacute central visual loss, pain with eye movements, and dyschromatopsia. Clinicians base their diagnosis on these symptoms, time course, and examination findings such as abnormal visual acuity, visual fields, color vision, or the presence of a new relative afferent pupillary defect. Direct imaging of the optic nerves by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is reserved for atypical cases, while MRI of the brain provides information that can change the management of optic neuritis and yields prognostic information regarding the patient's future risk for the development of multiple sclerosis. As established by the Optic Neuritis Treatment Trial, an abnormal baseline brain MRI scan is a strong predictor of MS after isolated optic neuritis in adults. The current management of acute optic neuritis is focused on expediting visual recovery through the use of high-dose intravenous corticosteroids.

Biography

Shlomo Dotan attended Medical school at the Hebrew University–Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, between the years 1968 and 1974. He completed his internship and residency in Ophthalmology and received his license as a specialist in Ophthalmology from the Israeli Ministry of Health in 1986. In 1989 he started a clinical fellowship in Neuro-Ophthalmology at the Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor, MI, USA, under the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Trobe, a world leading Neuro-Ophthalmologist. For the last 27 years, he was the Chief of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Service at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem. He is the author of almost forty scientific articles and the organizer and speaker in many ophthalmological and neuro-ophthalmological conferences worldwide.

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