ABSTRACT

CLINICAL PROFILE OF ORBITAL APEX SYNDROME

Aim: To describe the clinical features and management of patients with orbital apex syndrome.

Methods: Patients with orbital apex syndrome including cavernous sinus and superior orbital fissure syndrome presenting to our clinic between January and December 2012 were analysed prospectively. Detailed history, clinical, neuro ophthalmological evaluation, blood investigations and neuroimaging was done for all patients.

Results: 42 patients with mean age 49.21 yrs were included in the study. 20 male and 22 female patients. 40 had unilateral, 2 had bilateral involvement. Most common presentation was double vision and ocular pain seen in 22. Optic nerve involvement was seen in 19 patients. The etiology was inflammatory in 33, traumatic in 2, infectious in 3, neoplastic in 4 (of which 2 were biopsied). Patients with inflammatory etiology showed good response to steroids. Those with neoplasia were referred to ENT/Neurosurgeon/oncologist for further management.

Conclusion: Detailed history with review of systems is important in narrowing the differential diagnosis in patients with multiple cranial nerve palsies. Management is by treating the underlying cause and requires multidisciplinary approach.