Herpes Simplex Keratitis and Visual Impairment-Case Series

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Abstract

Purpose: To record the natural history of herpes simplex keratitis and estimate visual impairment in eyes of patients diagnosed with herpes simplex keratitis

Materials: This was a retrospective, descriptive case study for five years of the eyes of patients with clinically diagnosed herpes simplex keratitis. These patients had presented to eye OPD. The medical records were reviewed by the authors. Visual acuity at presentation and clinical details on examination were recorded and, diagnosis of the stage of disease given in the case record was noted. Statistical analysis was done using chi-square test.

Results: Out Of a total of 50 patients, there were 30 males and 20 females; 32 eyes presented with stromal lesions, 11 eyes with epithelial lesions, 8 eyes with epithelial and stromal lesions, and 1 eyes with endothelium.

Conclusion: Most patients had mild disease. The majority of the patients attained the final visual acuity of 6/12 or better in the affected eye. Thus, there was only a temporary visual morbidity with fairly good functional visual outcome in the majority of the patients.

Keywords: Herpes Simplex, Keratitis, Visual Impairment.
ocular HSV. [1] The recurrence rate for HSV may be as high as 25% in the first year and 33% by the end of the second year. [4]

RESULTS
The patients’ ages ranged from 8 to 80 years, with a mean of 29.9 ±16.69 years for females and 32.09 ± 15.79 years for males. 2.1: 1. (Table 1). Thus, the majority of the patients were young, adult males. The disease was bilateral in 3 patients. 39 patients had no obvious previous attack of the disease, whereas 11 (12.26%) had a history of previous attacks of the disease. The common symptoms were a pain, redness, defective vision, photophobia, irritation, and watering: Out Of a total of 50 patients, there were 30 males and 20 females; 32 eyes presented with stromal lesions, 11 eyes with epithelial lesions, 8 eyes with epithelial and stromal lesions, and 1 eye with endothelium.

CONCLUSION
There are no good criteria to judge the overall impact of this condition on the individual or on society. The condition is recurrent, and each case is unique; the patient may or may not be disabled during a recurrence and may or may not be permanently hampered by the residual corneal scar or any other structural abnormality. From this series, it could look like most patients have mild disease. Although data exist on the ocular HSV in the Western population regarding morbidity, social impact, and economic burden, no such data exist in the Indian population. [5],[6]. Though prospective longitudinal studies are needed, the data from this study can nevertheless provide a basis for establishing the incidence and visual impairment owing to herpes simplex keratitis.

REFERENCES
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