Primary orbital lymphoma: contralateral relapse after six years in complete remission

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We report a patient diagnosed of an intermediate-grade primary orbital lymphoma with relapse in the other orbit after six years in complete remission (CR).

Primary orbital lymphoma (POL) comprises about 5-10% of all orbital neoplasms.1 Most common symptoms are exophthalmus and diplopia.2 POL is usually diagnosed at early stage, and shows low to intermediate-grade histology. Radiotherapy (36-40 Gy) is a successful treatment in most patients, so this entity has a favorable prognosis, with long free disease survival.3,4 However, we report a patient diagnosed of an intermediate-grade POL with relapse in the other orbit after six years in complete remission (CR).

A 35-year-old man with persistent right exophthalmus and visual impairment, was diagnosed of intermediate-grade POL after undergoing biopsy of a retrocircular mass. The extension of disease was evaluated by computerized tomography (CT) scan and magnetic resonance (MR). No other lymphomatous locations were found. CR was achieved after systemic chemotherapy and local radiotherapy (40 Gy). After 6 years, left exophthalmus was noticed. A left orbital mass was detected by MR. The histological examination revealed the same intermediate-grade pattern. The imaging diagnosis showed no spread disease. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy were administered. Nowadays the patient remains in CR.

We have not found any other reference in the literature about contralateral relapse of POL. However, although POL usually shows indolent course and good prognosis, we suggest a long term follow up, in order to diagnose late relapse.

Key words
Orbital neoplasms, relapse, extranodal lymphoma

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References

Recent advances in myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)

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This year Haematologica reports a series of review articles on Recent Advances in Myelodysplastic Syndromes: the first one appeared in the January issue,1 the second one is found in this issue.2 Future articles will analyze prognostic factors, secondary MDS and therapy of these disorders. The basis for this series has been the Fourth International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes held in Barcelona, Spain, on April 24-27, 1997. The Meeting organizers – Guillermo F. Sanz, Miguel A. Sanz and Teresa Vallespi – have done a remarkable job as Guest Editors. In 1997 Haematologica published several articles on MDS3-12 and is now proud of publishing this series, which will hopefully appear also as a separate print and electronic volume.

Key words
Myelodysplastic syndromes

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