



Neuroretinitis in Ocular Bartonellosis

A healthy 14-year-old boy presented with a 1-week history of blurred vision in the right eye. He reported no flu-like symptoms and had no cats. Visual acuity was 20/400 in the right eye and 20/20 in the left eye. Funduscopy of the right eye revealed optic disk swelling, one flame-shaped hemorrhage, and macular serous detachment with hard stellate exudates (Figure 1, A). The left eye was normal. Optical coherence tomography confirmed the macular serous detachment (Figure 2, A; available at www.jpeds.com). Complete blood examination, chest radiography, and neuroimaging showed no abnormalities. Serologic tests for Lyme disease, syphilis, and toxoplasmosis were negative. Titers of *Bartonella henselae* antibodies were positive at a dilution of 1/80 for IgM. This was consistent with a diagnosis of bartonella neuroretinitis. The patient was treated with doxycycline (100 mg/12 h) and rifampicin (300 mg/12 h) daily for 6 weeks. One month later, the visual acuity improved to 20/30 in the right eye. A more obvious macular star was assessed; however, the disk edema and the serous macular detachment decreased (Figures 1, B and 2, B).

Bartonella henselae infection should be considered in patients with neuroretinitis even when there is no history of cat exposure.¹ Serologic testing might be considered to

confirm the diagnosis of *B henselae* infection.² Four to 6 weeks of antibiotic therapy, rifampicin, and doxycycline in patients older than 8 years of age and rifampicin with azithromycin or co-trimoxazole in younger patients.³ ■

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References

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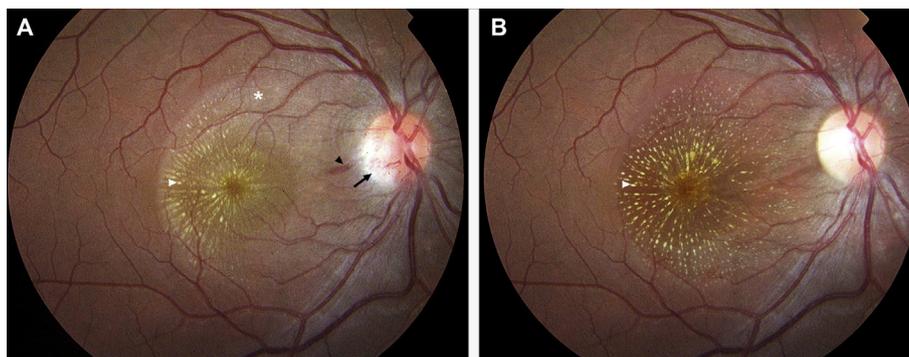


Figure 1. **A**, Retinography showing optic disk swelling (black arrow), one flame-shaped hemorrhage (black arrowhead), and macular serous detachment (white star) with hard stellate exudates (white arrowhead); **B**, retinography 1 month later showing more contrasting hard stellate exudates (white arrowhead).

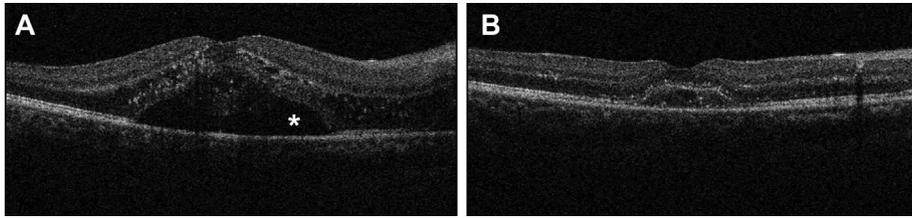


Figure 2. **A**, Optical coherence tomography showing the serous macular detachment (*white star*); **B**, aspect of the optical coherence tomography 1 month later.