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Can't see, can't pee, can't climb a tree: Reactive arthritis in a 22-year-old male presenting with bilateral acute non-granulomatous iritis and severe visual loss: A case report

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Background & Aim: Reactive Arthritis is an autoimmune HLA-B27 associated disorder usually induced by prior systemic infection. The syndrome usually shows a triad of arthritis, conjunctivitis and urethritis. It is a less common yet more serious ocular manifestation is non-granulomatous iritis, which occurs in 2-11% of patients. We herein present a case of reactive arthritis presenting with acute anterior uveitis and keratitis treated with systemic and topical medications.

Case Presentation: A 22-year-old male consulted due to 1-week history of severe blurring of vision, photophobia and eye pain on both eyes. Visual acuity was Hand movement on the right eye and counting fingers at 3 feet on the left eye. Both eyes showed diffuse corneal epithelial cell loss, stromal edema and Descemet's membrane folds. There was also a Grade 2-3 anterior chamber cellular reaction and fine keratic precipitates. Ocular symptoms were accompanied by right knee swelling, urinary symptoms with penile discharge and multiple cutaneous lesions on the trunk and proximal lower extremities. Patient underwent a course of systemic and topical steroid treatment in conjunction with antibiotics. There was a rapid resolution of ocular symptoms and clinical improvement of associated systemic problems.

Conclusion: Non-granulomatous iritis is a less common but serious ocular manifestation of reactive arthritis. Early recognition of this disease as part of the reactive arthritis disease complex is key in preventing debilitating ocular and systemic complications.

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