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**Ocular complications
of HIV infection:
experience of the
Northern Excellence
Pole of Morocco**

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Introduction: HIV infection is associated with a wide variety of ophthalmic manifestations. The objective of this study was to identify the ocular complications of HIV/AIDS in Morocco.

Material and methods: A retrospective study conducted in the internal medicine department of the Rabat Teaching Hospital between 1998 and 2008. All HIV-positive patients were retained for the study. Each patient had an exhaustive ocular examination.

Results: Of 115 ophthalmologic examinations, 28 were abnormal. Twenty-seven patients had stage C HIV infection and one patient was in stage A. The ocular manifestations were: 21 cases of ocular HIV-related anomalies (microangiopathies), four cases of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, one case of toxoplasmosis chorioretinitis, one case of CMV retinitis associated with toxoplasmosis chorioretinitis, two cases of *Cryptococcus neoformans* infection, two cases of varicella-zoster virus (VZV) retinitis, and one case of conjunctival Kaposi sarcoma.

The CD4 count average was of $86 \pm 91/\text{mm}^3$. Twenty-six patients had a CD4 count lower than $200/\text{mm}^3$. Progression was favorable in 85% of the cases, with three cases of blindness: bilateral in a case of VZV retinitis and unilateral in two cases of CMV retinitis and toxoplasmosis chorioretinitis.

Conclusion: CMV infection is the main ocular opportunistic infection in our series. However, Highly Active Anti-retroviral Treatment (HAART) may be the cause for the decline in the prevalence of ocular diseases and visual impairment in HIV/AIDS.