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Retinal thinning correlates with clinical severity in multiple system atrophy

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Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a rapidly progressive neurodegenerative disorder relegating patients to total dependency within several years. We explored retinal thickness changes in multiple system atrophy (MSA) patients according to disease severity and subtypes of MSA.A total of 36 MSA (27 MSA-P and 9 MSA-C) patients and 71 control subjects underwent general ophthalmologic examination and optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans. Peripapillary retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL) thickness and perifoveal retinal thickness were analyzed separately. MSA patients showed significantly decreased superior, inferior, superotemporal and inferotemporal RNFL thickness and showed significant perifoveal thinning in the superior and inferior outer sectors compared to control. Both the RNFL and perifoveal thinning were more marked and widespread in MSA-P than MSA-C patients. The UMSARS scores and the GDS showed a consistent and significant negative correlation with perifoveal thickness. In conclusion, peripapillary RNFL and perifoveal retinal thinning is observed in MSA which may reflect the degree and pattern of neurodegeneration occurring in MSA.

Biography

Tae Wan Kim has completed his PhD from Seoul National University and studied Molecular Imaging at Stanford University School of Medicine as a Visiting Professor. He is the Director of Retina Department in Seoul Metropolitan Government-Seoul National University Boramae Medical Center. He has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals and presented more than 45 papers and invited lectures in reputed conferences. In addition, he has written 4 book chapters of reputed textbooks.

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