

## Atypical manifestation of ocular syphilis: A challenging case of outer retina folds in a young patient

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### OBJECTIVE

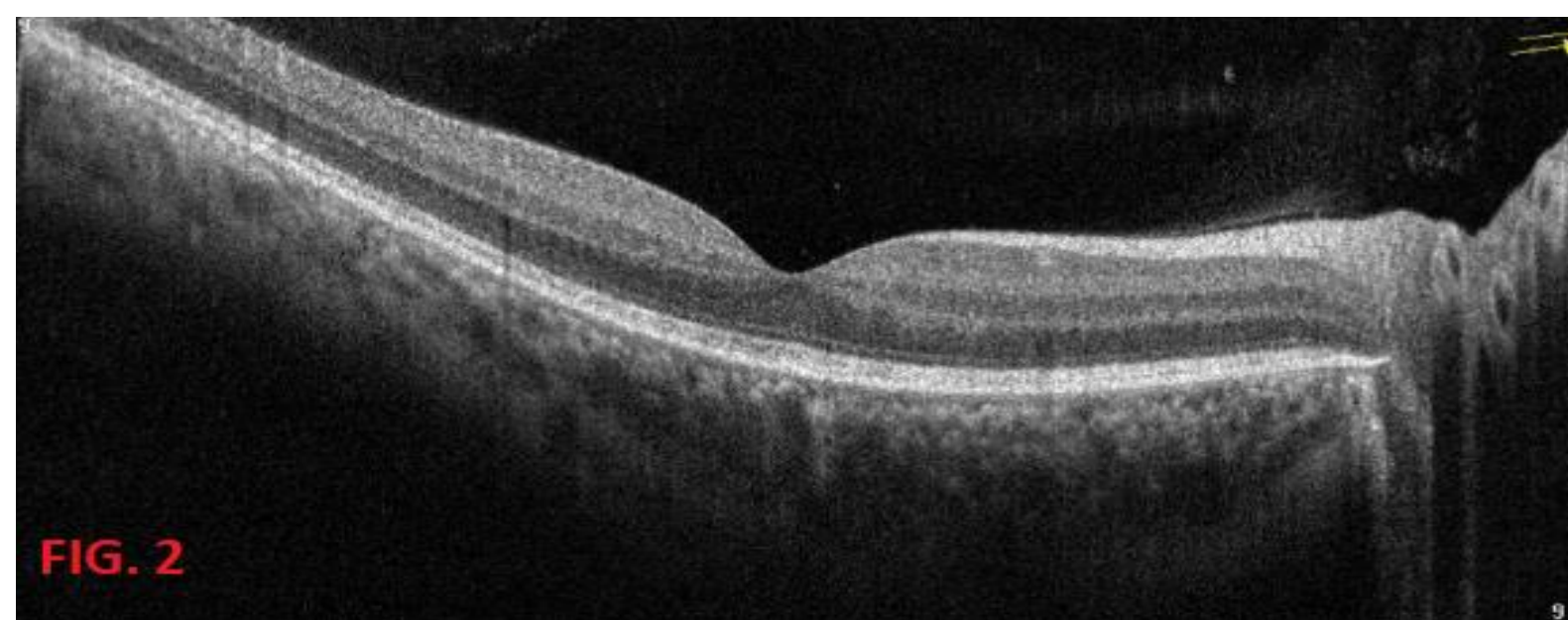
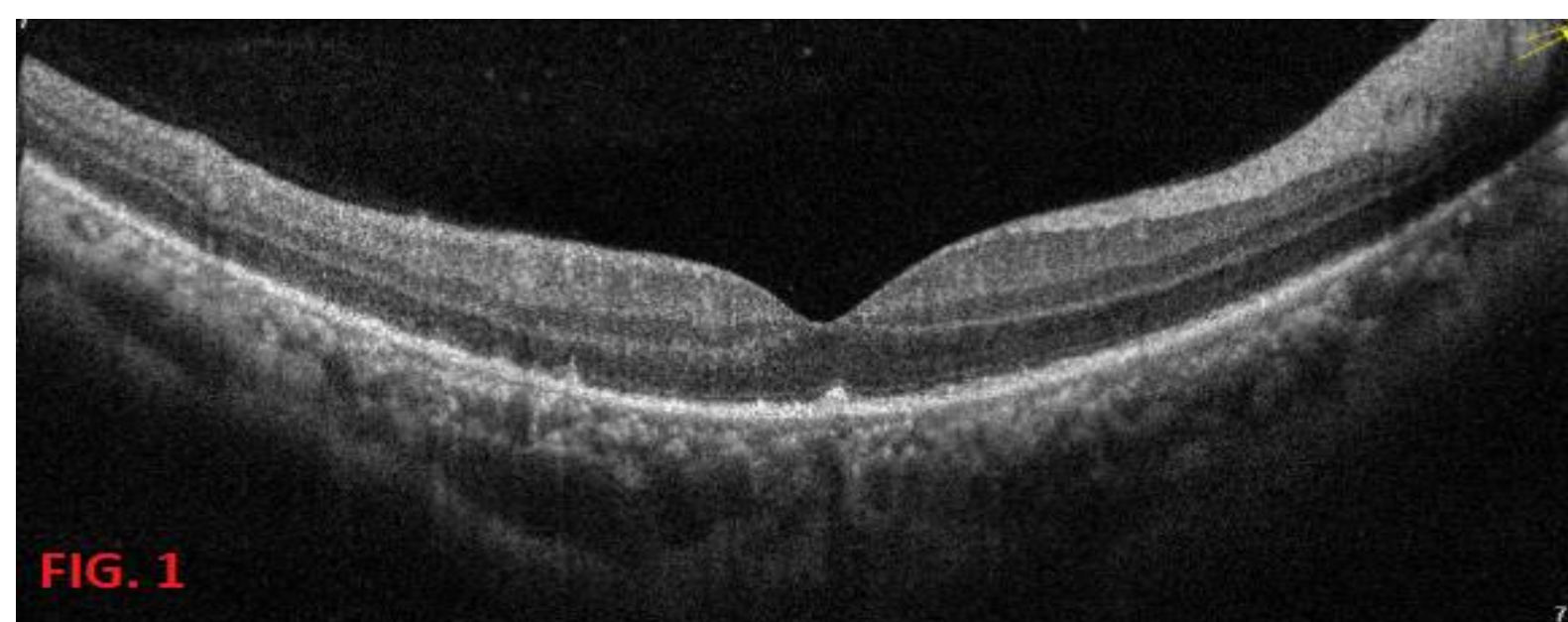
Report a case of unilateral ocular syphilis with atypical manifestations, presenting its clinical signs and imaging examinations, aiming to stimulate discussion on this rare ophthalmologic condition. Additionally, to raise awareness within the scientific community about the importance of considering and suspecting this pathology in the differential diagnosis.

### CASE PRESENTATION

This work presents a challenging clinical case of a 24-year-old female patient. Patient reported visual blurring in the right eye associated with a central spot vision loss, starting one week before without progression. Diagnosed with controlled asthma, the patient exhibited reduced visual acuity (20/200 Right Eye (OD) and 20/20 Left Eye (OS)), with no changes in biomicroscopy and retinal mapping. The OCT examination revealed folding of photoreceptor layers in the macula (FIG. 1), indicating a complication that required a more in-depth investigative approach.

Laboratory tests showed positive results for VDRL and reactive FTABs, along with the presence of the HLA B51 marker. In collaboration with the infectious Disease Department, patient was treated with benzathine penicillin and 20 mg prednisone. Completion of the treatment resulted in the normalization of OCT (FIG. 2) and restoration of visual acuity to 20/20.

### IMAGES AND TABLES



### DISCUSSION

This case report highlights the importance of vigilance in challenging situations, presenting a patient with atypical ocular syphilis, devoid of classic symptoms. The absence of conventional findings, such as panuveitis or syphilitic papilledema, underscores the multifaceted and silent nature of syphilis, making the diagnosis more complex. This case reinforces the need for a comprehensive approach, despite the absence of typical signs, emphasizing the importance of clinical suspicion and thorough evaluation. The shared experience contributes to understanding atypical manifestations of ocular syphilis, strengthening clinical readiness, and highlighting the importance of continuous updates in ophthalmology.

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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- 2 - Moradi A, Salek S, Daniel E, Gangaputra S, Ostheimer TA, Burkholder BM, et al. Clinical features and incidence rates of ocular complications in patients with ocular syphilis. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2015;159(2):334-43