Diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis (DUSN) simulating unilateral pigmentary retinitis (URP) – Case Report

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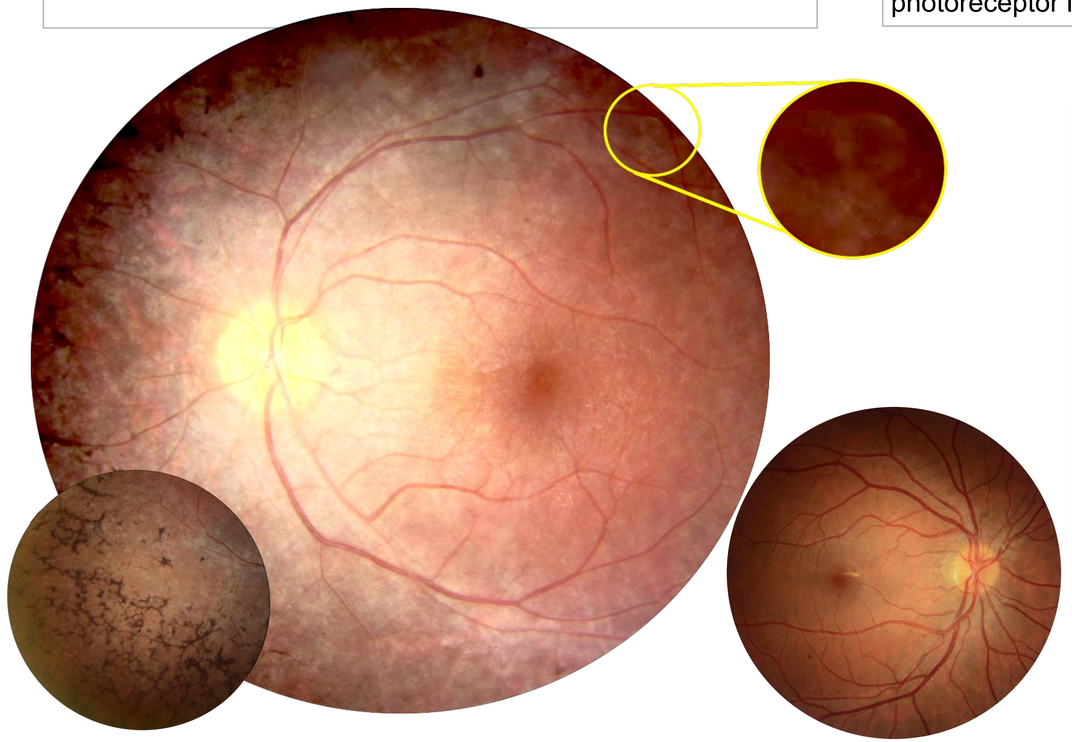
PURPOSE

This case report highlights the importance of conducting thorough eye exams and investigating other causes of vision loss besides retinitis pigmentosa, such as uveitis, to ensure accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

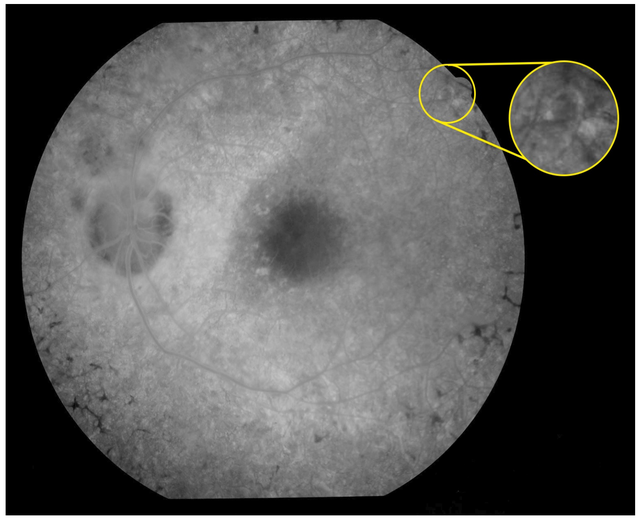
METHODS

This case report was constructed based on a detailed interview, review of the patient's medical records and exams, and review of specialized literature.



RESULTS

The patient, a 31-year-old woman, was admitted with a history of long-standing low vision in the left eye. She reported having normal vision until the age of 12, when she began to experience progressive vision loss, treated with an unspecified vermifuge. On ophthalmological examination, visual acuity was 20/20 in both eyes. Fluorescein angiography and color retinography indicated pigmentary retinosis in the left eye with a probable scarred nematode at the end of the superior temporal arcade. Visual field examination and optical coherence tomography also showed changes in the left eye, including tubular visual field and irregularities in the photoreceptor layer.



DISCUSSION

The retinitis pigmentosa is the name given to a group of diseases that usually present as a bilateral alteration with a hereditary factor, where there is progressive loss of photoreceptors and deposition of pigment in the retina. Unilateral retinitis pigmentosa (URP) is an extremely rare entity, with few reports in the literature, which still has its existence as a clinical entity questioned. Joseph in 1951 concluded that most cases that presented an eye background compatible with URP were associated with other conditions. Diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis (DUSN) is a form of uveitis, which is associated with infection by nematodes in the sub-retinal space, which would promote an extensive inflammatory degenerative process in the retina. In Brazil and other parts of South America, DUSN is increasingly considered an important cause of posterior uveitis in children and young adults.