

DEFINITION

1. **Eale's Disease** is a condition which manifests itself clinically by repeated haemorrhages into the vitreous. It occurs typically in apparently healthy young adults, usually males.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. The patient complains of blurring of vision, the onset being sudden or gradual. Both eyes may be affected in succession and the disease has a tendency to recur. However in the early stages visual acuity is rarely affected unless the macular region is involved by haemorrhage.
3. Rarely there may be neurological abnormalities in Eale's disease. Such patients, usually male, present with acute or subacute paraplegia and sensory loss, a few weeks to years after the onset of eye symptoms. Occasionally, signs of spinal cord, brain stem or cerebral involvement are seen.
4. Though slight remissions and exacerbations occur, on the whole the disability is often permanent.

AETIOLOGY

5. The condition is regarded as an inflammatory lesion of the retinal veins (periphlebitis) with occasional involvement of the retinal arteries.
6. The precise aetiology of the disease is not known but it is generally regarded as a hypersensitivity reaction of the retinal vessels to various antigens, especially tuberculo-protein, and it develops when a protein of a similar nature is ingested.
7. The condition is especially common in India and many of the patients are of Asiatic origin.
8. The possibility of some racial or genetic hypersensitivity to tuberculosis has been raised to account for this.

CONCLUSION

9. Eale's disease is regarded as a hypersensitivity reaction of retinal veins to certain antigens and follows a course punctuated by recurrences. Loss of visual function is variable. Neurological effects may occur.

REFERENCES

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