

Uveitis unplugged: sorting out infectious uveitis

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No financial or proprietary interest in any material discussed

The fundamental principle for managing uveitis:

Is the disease:

infective

inflammatory

neoplastic

**What is the worst, most acute threat to vision
this could be?**

The fundamental principle for managing uveitis:

Is the disease:

infective

inflammatory

neoplastic

**What is the worst, most acute threat to vision
this could be?**

usually infection!

Idiopathic

505 (50%)

- idiopathic 424
- Fuchs 26
- WDS 55

Inflammatory

358 (35%)

- HLA B27 188
- (+systemic B27) 46
- sarcoid 56
- Behcets 18

Infective

203 (20%)

- Herpetic 105
 - anterior 83
 - posterior 22
- TB 40
- Toxoplasmosis 38
- syphilis 10 (25)

How do I sort this out???

- **clinical assessment + carefully selected tests**
 - **clinical assessment is the key investigation**
 - **critical to take as comprehensive a history and review of systems as possible**
- plus
- **thorough careful complete examination of each eye**
-

Sorting out Uveitis: anterior uveitis signs

Anterior Uveitis Signs:

- comprehensive a history and systems review
- there are some unofficial “rules”

can't diagnose anterior uveitis without a normal fundus on dilated exam

- anterior uveitis: mostly non specific signs
 - KPs, iris and pupil: useful clues
-

Posterior Uveitis

- **comprehensive a history and systems review critical**
 - **there are some unofficial “rules”**
 - **pattern recognition key step**
 - narrows differential diagnosis**
 - **posterior uveitis: many useful & relatively specific signs**
-

Patterns of Posterior Uveitis

- acute non- specific
panuveitis
- intermediate uveitis &
pars planitis
- retinitis
- choroiditis
- chorioretinitis
- retinal vasculitis

my clinical approach

- signs of vasculitis
 - signs of inflammation
 - patterns of spots and scars
-

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my clinical approach

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*I want to focus on identifying
the primary site of involvement*



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Assessing the patient with uveitis



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what level is the abnormality??? - retinal

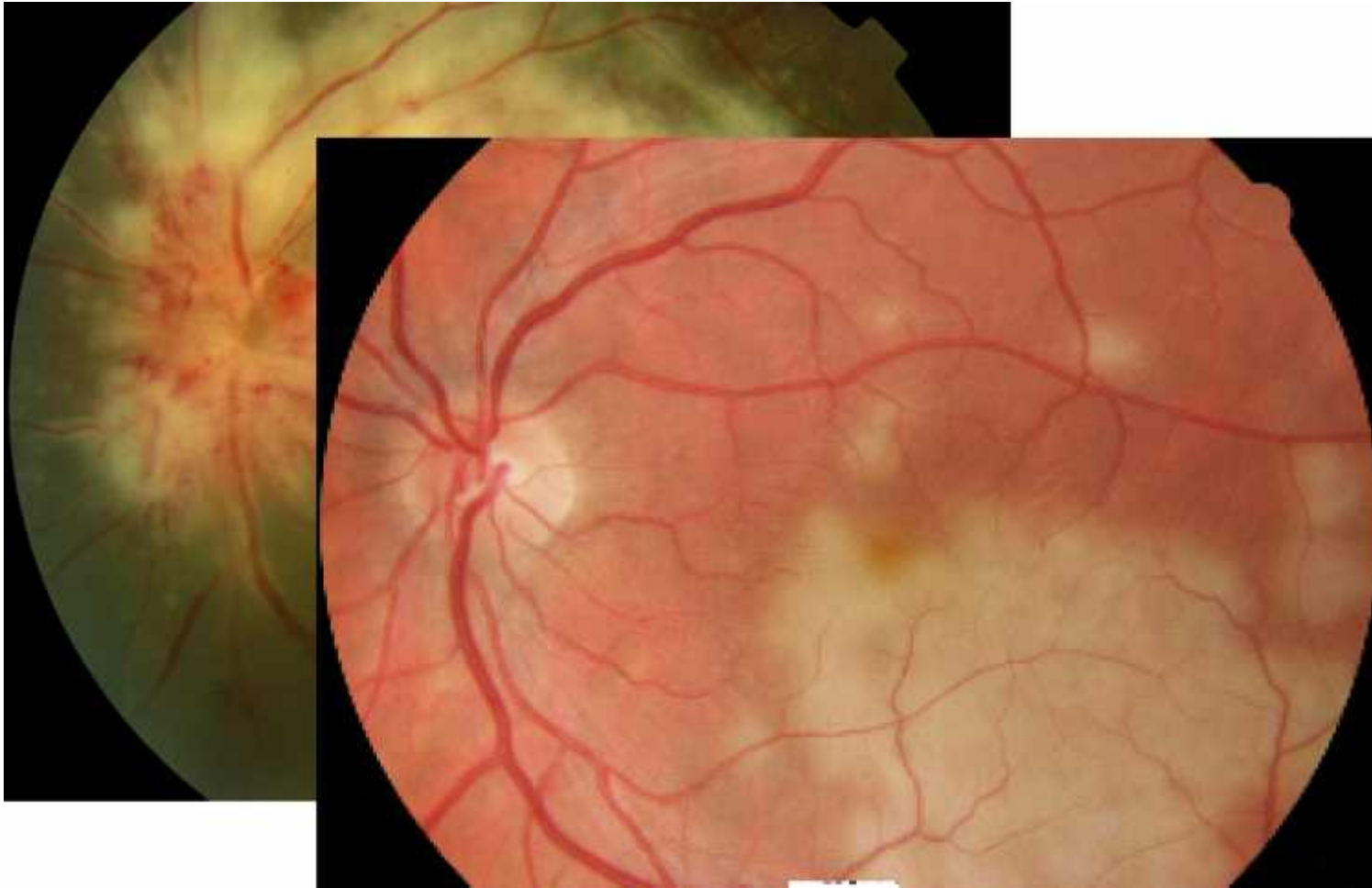


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Assessing the patient with uveitis



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what level is the abnormality??? – subretinal/choroidal



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Assessing the patient with uveitis



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what level is the abnormality

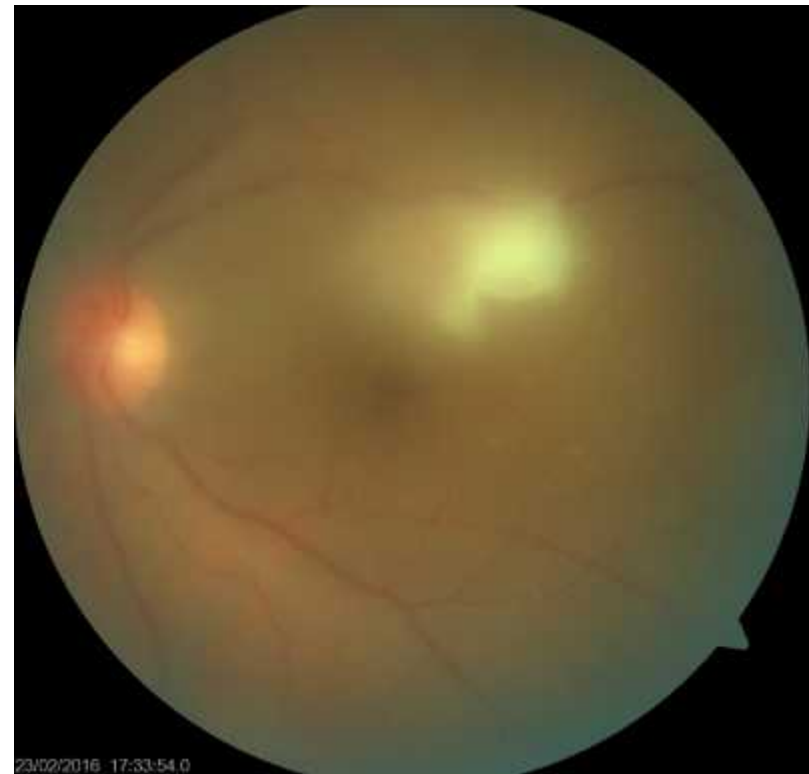
Infectious uveitis

Retina:

- herpetic retinitis
- toxoplasmosis
- syphilis

Choroid:

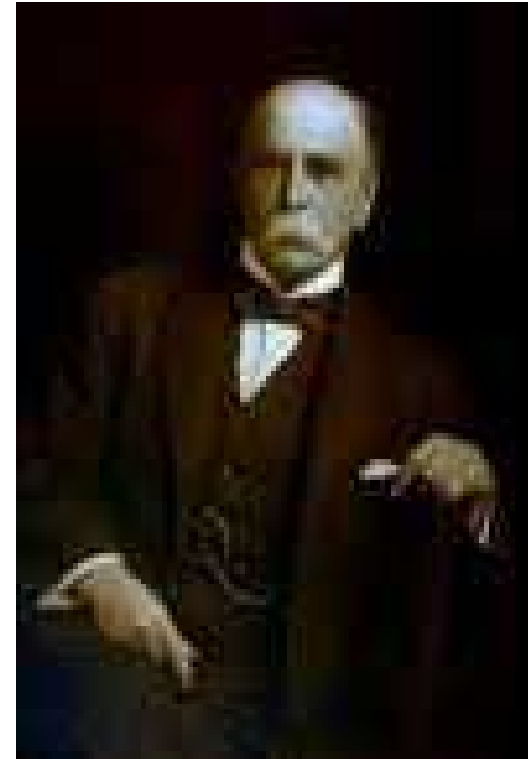
- bacterial endophthalmitis
- fungal endophthalmitis
- infective TB



Syphilis

- complex sexually transmitted disease
- highly variable clinical course
- epidemic at present
- not uncommon co-infection with HIV

- protean ocular manifestations
- ocular involvement at any stage
- ocular manifestations up to 5%



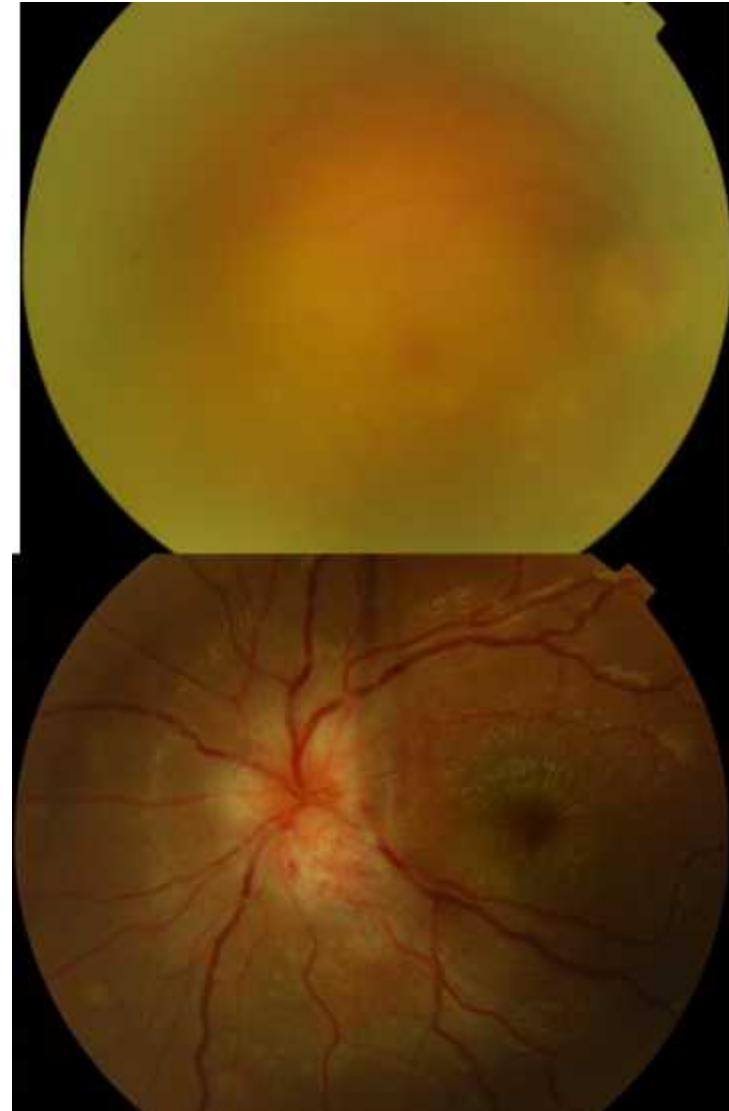
*“The physician
who knows syphilis,
knows medicine”
Sir William Osler*

Optic Nerve:

- commonly involves optic nerve
- optic neuritis
- optic peri-neuritis
- posterior or pan uveitis

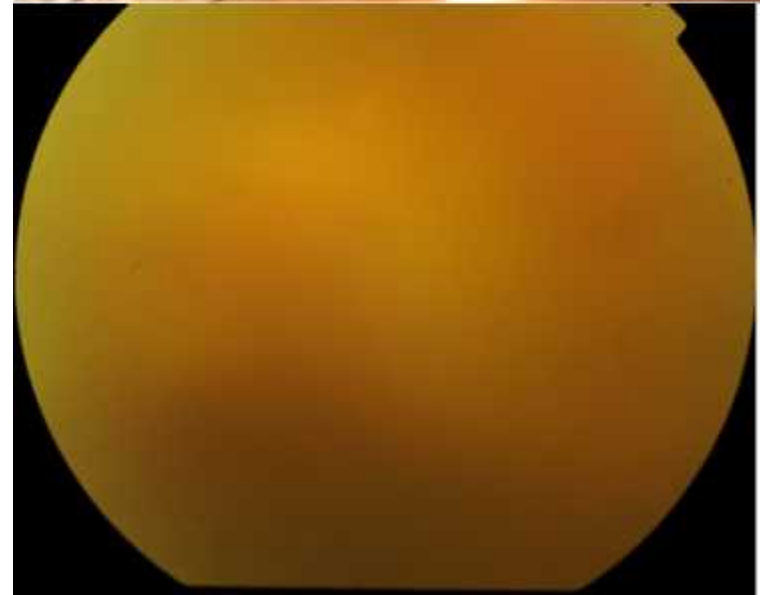
plus

- optic papillitis
- neuroretinitis



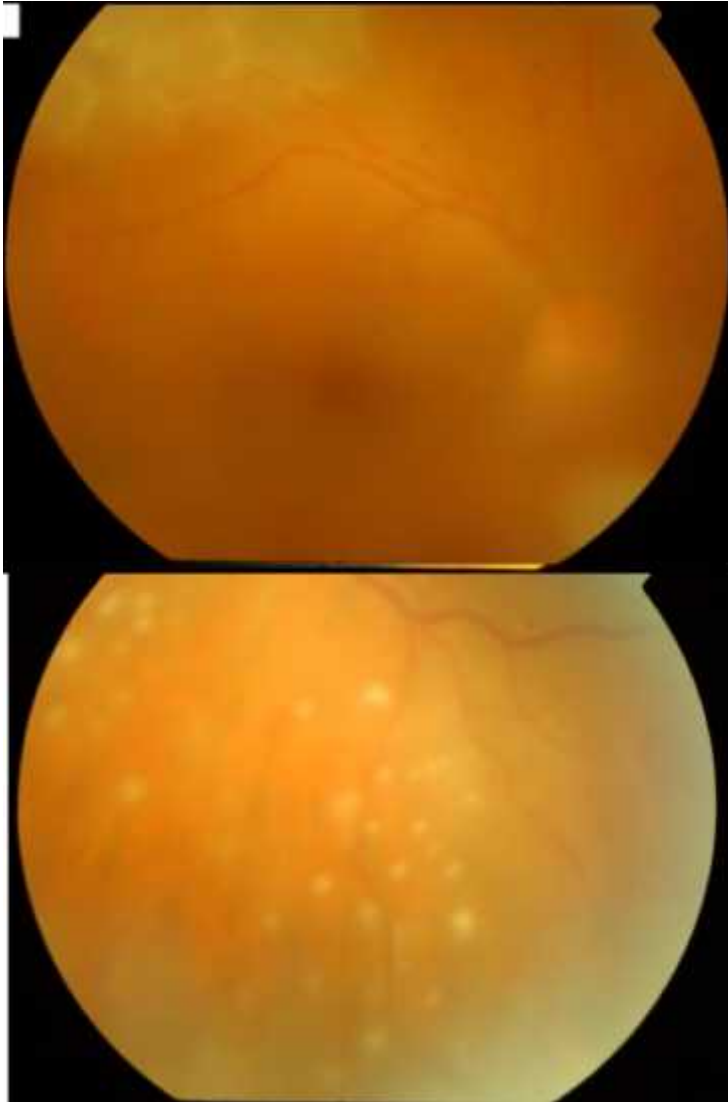
Acute Pan Uveitis

- common acute presentation
- rapid vision loss & “hot eye”
- AC cells
- vitreous cells & haze
- retinitis \pm optic neuropathy
- history is critical – risk factors
- always consider syphilis in differential diagnosis

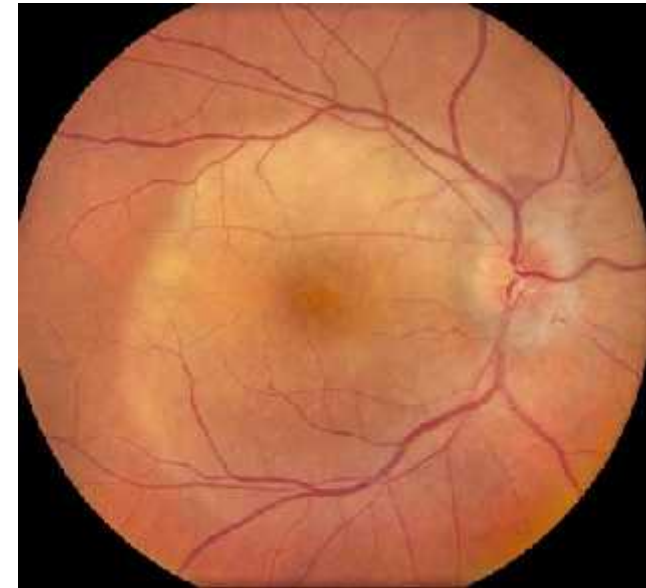




Syphilis



**necrotising
peripheral retinitis**

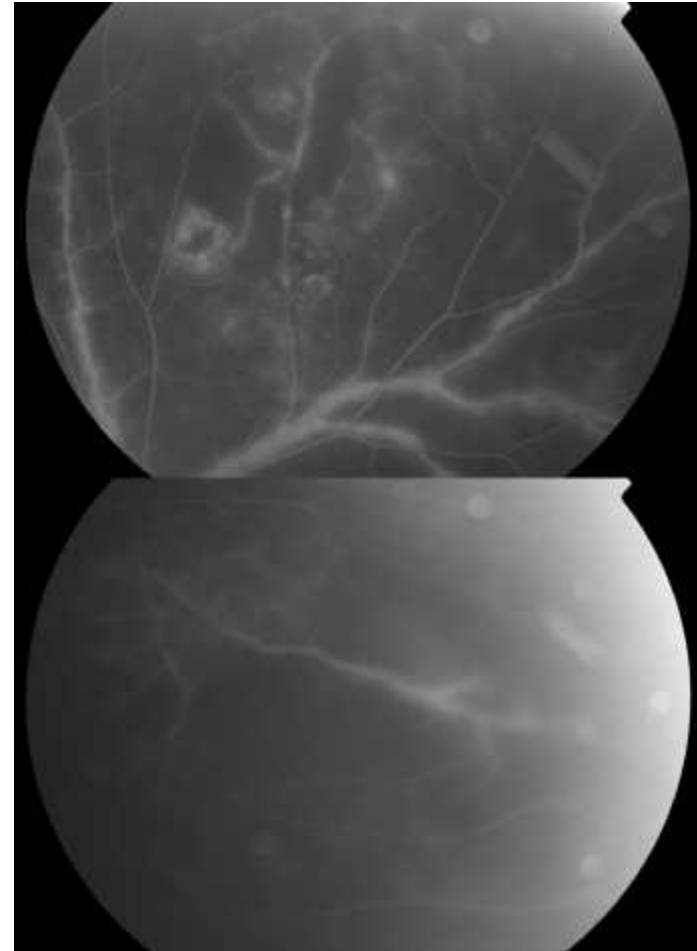


**acute syphilitic posterior
placoid chorioretinopathy**
(courtesy West Coast Retina)

punctate inner retinitis

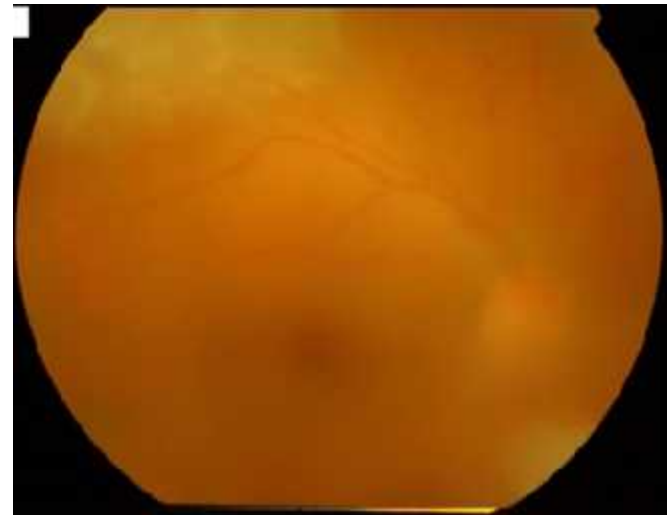
Syphilis & Retinal Vasculitis:

- **important cause of RV \pm retinitis**
- **posterior segment ocular features:**
 - **often mid peripheral**
 - **arteries & veins**
 - **capillary closure**



HIV and Syphilis:

- **HIV atypical, rapid clinical course**
- **may be presentation of HIV**
- **severe intraocular inflammation even with low CD4 counts**
- **common ocular features:**
 - **retinitis**
 - **severe panuveitis with dense vitritis**
 - **florid optic nerve involvement**
- **must treat as neurosyphilis**
- **may relapse despite adequate therapy**

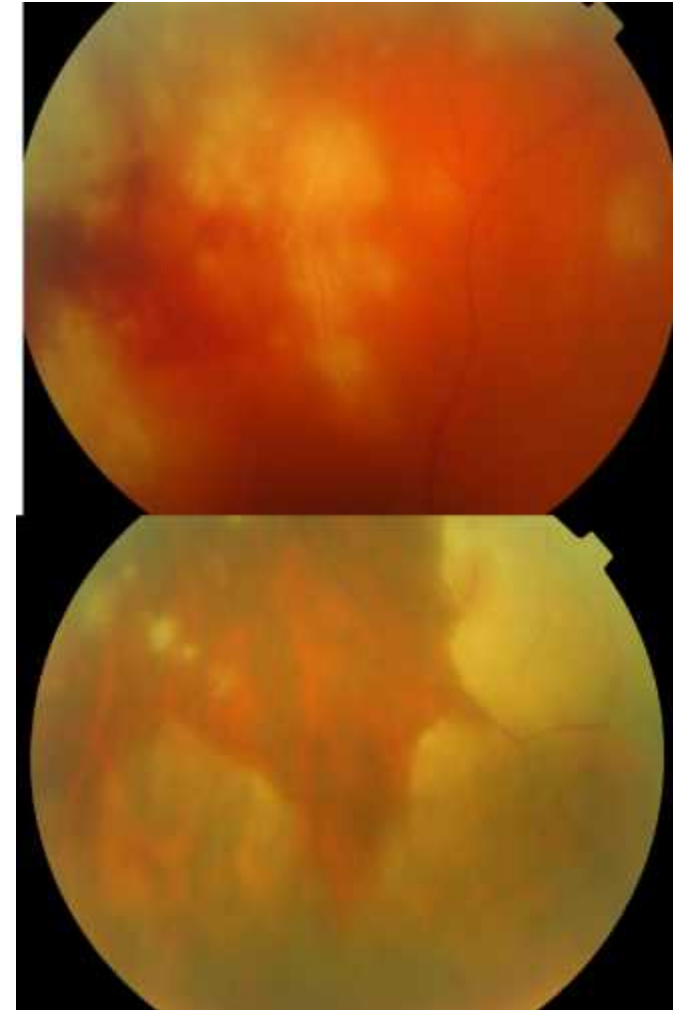


Herpetic Uveitis

- **common disorder**
- **approx 10% of uveitis**
- **range of herpes viruses**
 - **HSV I**
 - **HSV II**
 - **VZV**
 - **CMV**
- **anterior uveitis**
 - **acute**
 - **recurrent acute**
 - **chronic**
 - **Posner Schlossman syndrome**
 - **Fuchs cyclitis**
- **posterior uveitis**
 - **ARN**
 - **PORN**
 - **CMV**

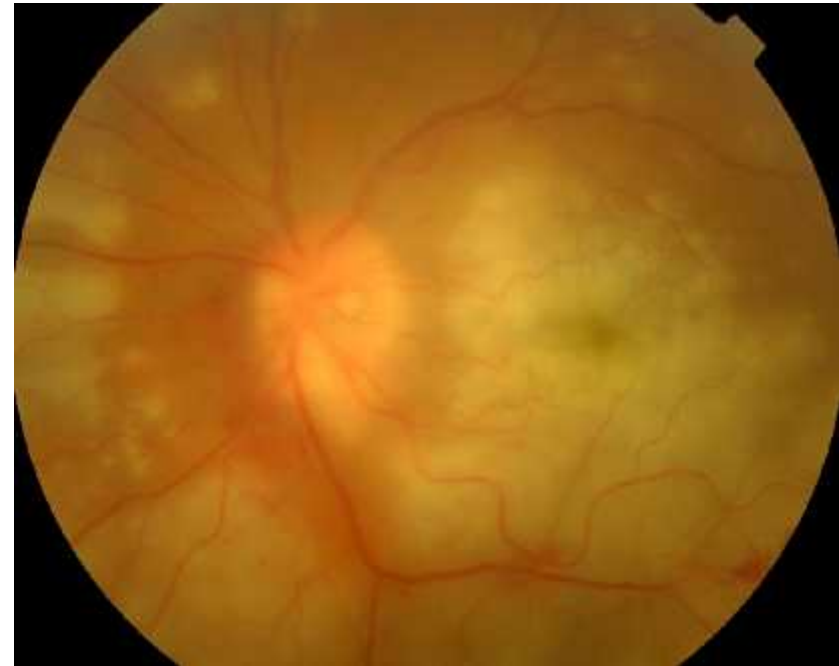
Acute Retinal Necrosis

- normal or immunosuppressed
- sudden onset, rapid progress
- variable severity
- pan-uveitis
 - retinal vasculitis
 - retinitis
 - optic neuropathy
- high risk retinal detachment
- high risk 2nd eye involvement



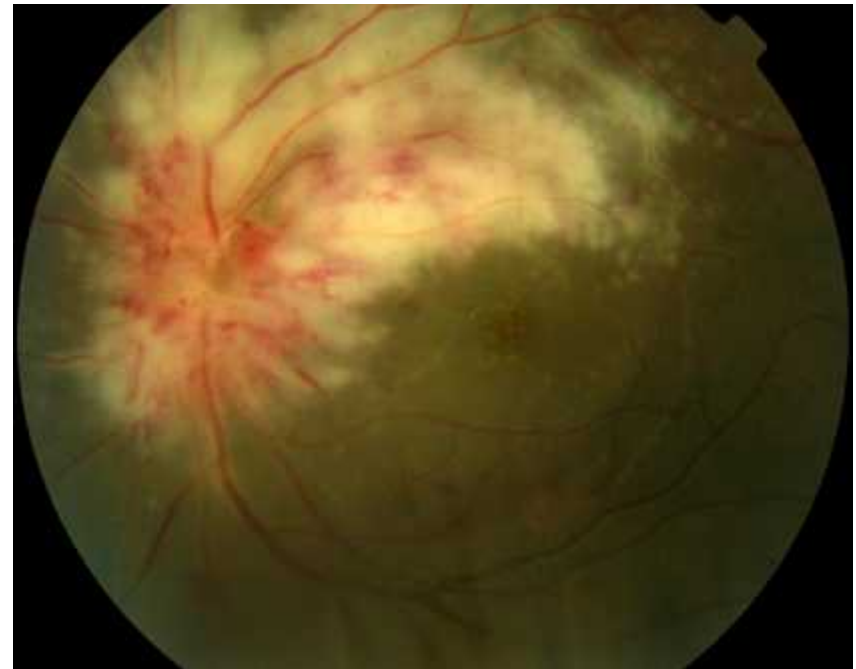
PORN

- **very immunosuppressed**
- **hyper-acute ARN**
- **VZV retinal infection**
- **bilateral retinitis**
 - **outer retina**
 - **posterior pole**
 - **optic neuropathy**
- **retina rapidly destroyed**
- **retinal detachment**



CMV Retinitis

- immunosuppressed
 - slowly progressive
 - maybe asymptomatic
 - retinitis
 - retinal vasculitis
 - haemorrhage
 - clear media
 - slow centripetal spread
 - high risk retinal detachment
 - high risk 2nd eye involvement
-



Clinical Presentations

- **normal**

- acute retinal necrosis (ARN)

- **immunocompromised**

HSV & VZV

- ARN, PORN
- organ transplant
- HIV infection (CD4: 0 – 200)

CMV

- profound immunocompromise
- HIV infection (CD4: 0 – 100; mostly < 50)
- organ transplant



Acute Retinal Necrosis

- normal or I/S patient
- sudden onset
- rapidly progressive severe loss of vision
- “hot” inflamed eye
- triad of signs – peripheral retinitis, vasculitis, optic neuropathy

CMV Retinopathy

- always I/S or HIV infected
- insidious onset or asymptomatic
- slowly progressive
- clear quiet media
- characteristic retinal signs – “pizza fundus”

NB. Confounding effects of immunosuppression & HAART

TB and the eye

- **1/3 of world's population has latent TB**
 - **lifetime risk of 10% => active TB**
 - **recent resurgence**
 - **HIV**
 - **migrants from high prevalence regions**
 - **ocular TB is uncommon**
 - **involve any ocular structure**
-

Infectious active Pulmonary TB and the eye

- **ocular disease uncommon**
- **retinal vasculitis + vitritis**
- **choroidal nodule(s)**
 - large
 - if >1, different sizes
 - florid vitritis & AC cells
- => **miliary TB**
- **often CNS TB**
- **indication for TB therapy**



Duane's Ophthalmology

Latent TB and the eye

- **ocular disease more common**
 - **patient with IED with +ve Mantoux or IGRA and**
 - **clinically well + normal CXR**
 - **clinically well + signs old TBCXR but no h/o TB**
 - **typically from endemic region**
 - **pathophysiology unclear:**
 - **hypersensitivity response from TB elsewhere**
 - **latent TB in eye - RPE**
 - **multiple possible clinical manifestations**
 - **different disease patterns around the world**
-

Latent TB and the eye

2 common clinical scenarios:

1. “presumed” ocular TB

- occlusive retinal vasculitis
 - atypical serpiginous choroidopathy
 - choroidal granuloma/multifocal choroiditis
 - CAU
 - scleritis
- NB: disease pattern variable**
Depends on where you are

2. patient with vision threatening uveitis requiring systemic therapy who also has latent TB

Occlusive Retinal Vasculitis

- variable retinitis
- widespread retinal ischaemia
- NVD, NVE \pm NVI – vit bleed
- variable vitritis & AC cells
- quiet media => “Eale’s disease”
- treatment:
 - steroids + TB therapy \pm IMT
 - \pm specific ocular Rx: laser, avastin, TPPV



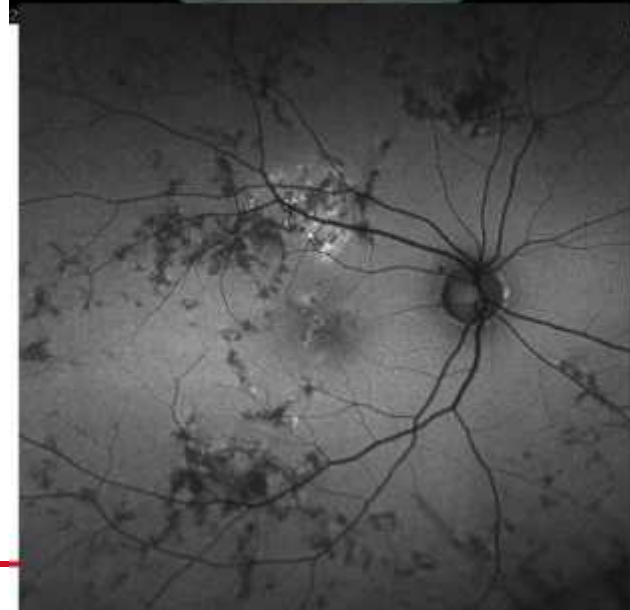
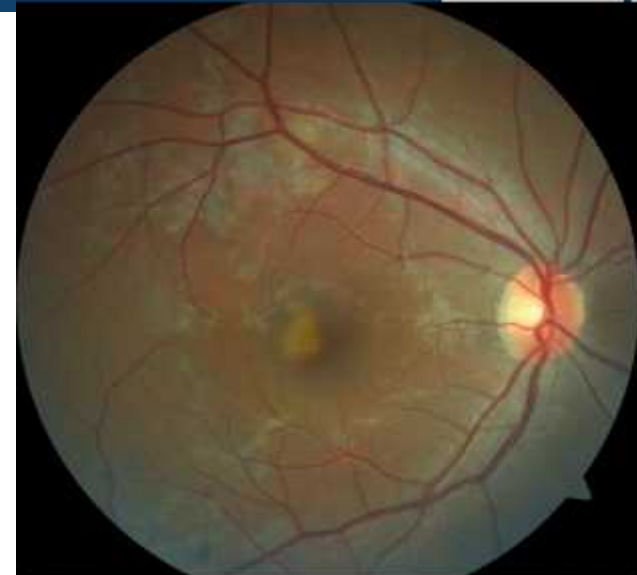
Multifocal Choroiditis

- **multifocal choroiditis**
 - asymmetric
 - lesions different ages & sizes
 - vitritis & AC cells
- **steroids + TB therapy \pm IMT**



Atypical Serpiginous

- **serpiginoid choroidal/RPE lesions**
- **possible atypical features**
 - **uni-ocular/asymmetric**
 - **centred around macula**
 - **vitritis**
- **steroids + TB therapy \pm IMT**



TB therapy & eye disease

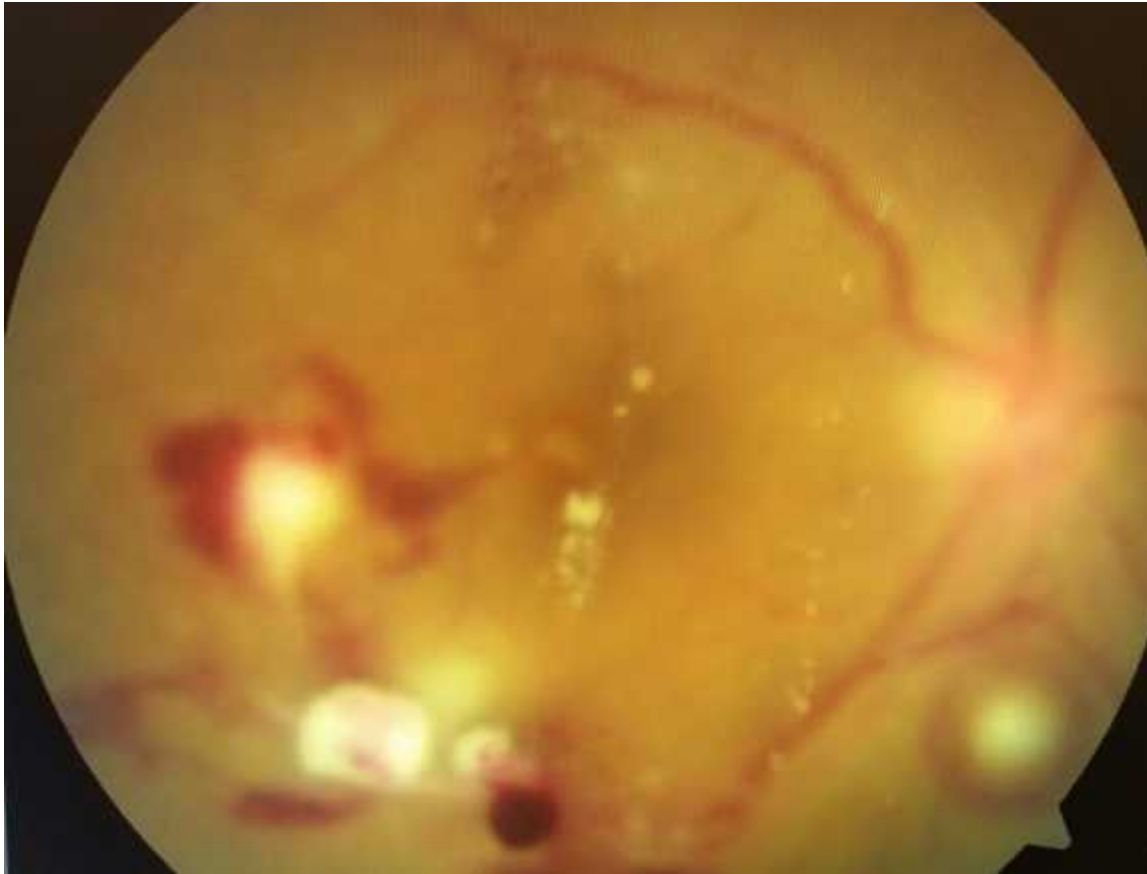
- **TB Rx = WHO DOTS 4 then 2 drug course**
 - **minimum 6 months; typically 9-12 month Rx**
 - **consider risk of MDR TB**
 - **consult TB/ID physicians**

 - **consider local steroid therapy when possible**
 - **if need systemic steroids \pm IMT \Rightarrow TB therapy**
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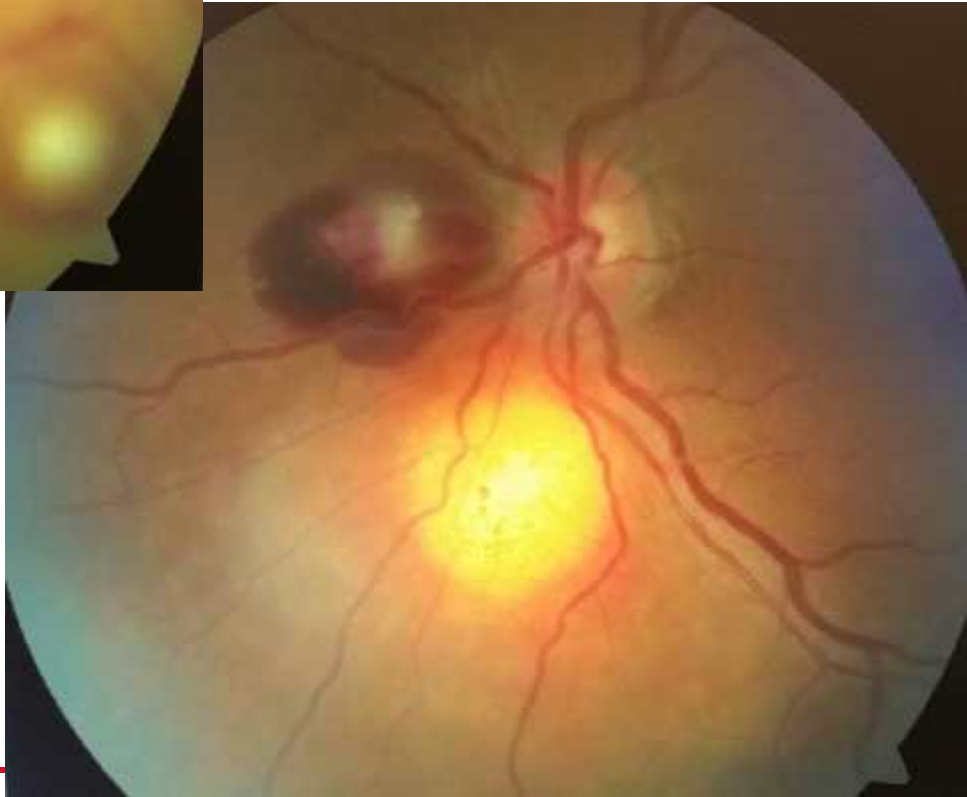
Metastatic Endophthalmitis:

- need high index of suspicion
- unwell inpatient, ICU & unable to come to clinic
- source of sepsis – surgery, IV lines, ICU, sepsis elsewhere
- *always* consider in immunocompromised
- even if otherwise well & no obvious sepsis





**.....convince team
to bring patient to clinic**



differential diagnosis:

severe uveitis with vision loss

- **acute retinal necrosis – herpetic retinitis**
- **syphilis**
- **toxoplasmosis**
- **infective endophthalmitis – bacterial/fungal**
- **TB uveitis**
- **Behcet's disease**

Its all about the history and ocular exam

- **acute retinal necrosis** typically no clues; otherwise well;
may be immunosuppressed
 - **toxoplasmosis** otherwise well
 - **syphilis** usually no clues; at risk behaviour
 - **inf endophthalmitis** history systemic focus/sepsis;
ocular surgery
 - **TB uveitis** from endemic region
 - **Behcets disease** history mouth & genital ulcers;
often “silk road” ethnicity
-

Take Home messages:

- **always consider infection as a cause of ocular inflammation**
 - **uveitis may be presentation of HIV infection esp syphilis**
 - **severe vision threatening uveitis common**
 - **potent specific treatment for infective uveitis**
-