P. vivax malaria causing subconjunctival haemorrhage: Case report

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Despite humungous advancements in medical field, malaria is still a daunting disease in tropical and subtropical countries. Complications are quite common in malaria when infected with falciparum malaria but not so with P. vivax infection. Subconjunctival haemorrhage can happen in cerebral malaria due to falciparum malaria but such a complication is extremely rare in P. vivax malaria. We present a case of a young lady with P. vivax malaria presenting with fever and subconjunctival haemorrhage in both eyes which is a very rare manifestation. This patient got better with conservative treatment.

Case description: A 22 year old female got admitted to medicine ward with complaints of fever with chills and rigors for 4 days with history of redness in both eyes for 3 days. At admission, vitals were normal. Patient did not have a significant past history nor was she on any drugs. She had a palpable spleen 4 cm below left costal margin. She also had subconjunctival haemorrhage in both eyes. Laboratory findings showed low haemoglobin, normal coagulation profile, malarial antigen by card method was positive for P. vivax malaria. So, she was put on injectable antimalarials for 7 days. Patient did not have any visual disturbances. Fundoscopy was normal. Haemorrhage subsided on its own after few days. Patient was discharged after 7 days.

Discussion: Malaria is quite prevalent in tropical countries like India. This case tells us the unusual presentation of malaria. Most complications of malaria will usually get corrected with proper treatment and close monitoring as with the above case. Early and prompt treatment will reduce the chances of complications.

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