OPTIC NERVE INFILTRATION AS THE INITIAL MANIFESTATION OF T-CELL LYMPHOMA’S RELAPSE

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Direct invasion of the orbit by the neoplastic cells from systemic T-cell Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma is common, but the involvement of the optic nerve as an initial manifestation of relapsed disease is relatively rare. A 13-year old boy with systemic T-cell Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, stage IV in remission complained of progressive visual loss in his left eye. Ophthalmoscopy detected left optic disk edema and retinal venous tortuosity. Magnetic resonance imaging showed evidence of left optic nerve head infiltration. Optical coherence tomography indicated swollen left optic nerve head. A diagnosis of unilateral optic nerve infiltration as an initial isolated presentation of T-cell Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma relapse was made. Systemic chemotherapy and whole brain radiotherapy including both orbits were performed. Incomplete recovery of his left eye visual acuity was reported. Unfortunately the child died of systemic relapse 5 months later. Optic nerve infiltration as an initial manifestation of T-cell lymphoma’s relapse is rare and requires urgent investigation, and treatment.