BILATERAL AMAUROSIS IN PATIENT MEDICATED WITH QUININE – CASE REPORT
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Introduction: Bilateral amaurosis is a rare complication of the treatment of Plasmodium falciparum malaria with quinine and can occur with a single therapeutic dose. Visual acuity recovery usually occurs but in a few cases amaurosis may be permanent, with optic atrophy.

Case Study: 35 year-old male was admitted with the diagnosis of Plasmodium falciparum malaria. IV quinine dihydrochloride and doxycycline were given for nine days. On the fourth day he had an episode of acute respiratory distress syndrome and cardiorespiratory arrest, was intubated and remained in an induced coma for 5 days. After the coma he complains of severe decrease in visual acuity. He had no light perception, pupils were fixed in mydriasis, photomotor reflexes were absent and remaining neurological examination was normal, optic discs were slightly pale and there was no retinal edema or chorioretinitis. Fourteen days after, pale optic discs and generalized arterial narrowing and sheathing were observed. CT and MRI of brain and orbits were normal. VEP-Flash first showed increased latency bilaterally and ten days later there were no cortical potentials. ERG-Flash demonstrated markedly reduced bioelectrical activity of the inner and medium retinal layers on both eyes. OCT showed atrophy of all retinal layers. In 9 months follow-up there was no recovery.

Conclusion: Visual loss by quinine treatment depends on the knowledge of the location and mechanism of toxicity, which have long been the subject of discussion and controversy, and currently there is no proven and effective therapy for the disease.