A RARE CASE OF SCLEROMALACIA PERFORANS DUE TO RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: A CASE REPORT

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Background: Scleromalacia perforans is a rare and severe ocular complications of rheumatoid arthritis which can lead to blindness. Late detection often occurs due to lack of symptoms of the disease.

Objective: To present a case of scleromalacia perforans due to rheumatoid arthritis and to raise awareness of the disease.

Methods: Case Report

Case Presentation: 57 year-old female came to our hospital in a rural area of West Java, Indonesia, with blurry vision and eye discomfort since 3 months ago. She also complained morning stiffness in both hands since 3 days ago. She had been diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis for 12 years and took medications irregularly. Visual acuities were 0.05 in the right eye and 0.32 in the left eye. We noticed bluish scleral and corneal thinning in both eyes, with visible uveal tissue in the right eye. On examination also reveals tenderness in the joints of her hands and feet. She had erythocyte sedimentation rate value of 16. Rheumatoid factor was positive and so C-reactive Proteins. We consulted to an internist and ophthalmologist and were treated by methylprednisolone intravenously 1 gram/day for 3 days, methotrexate 10mg/week, and analgetics. She asked to follow-up routinely.

Conclusions: We should be aware of scleromalacia perforans, although rare, because it leads to permanent damage and blindness, especially in rural areas where facilities are limited.

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