ORBITAL DECOMPRESSION SURGERY AS A TREATMENT OF SEVERE GRAVES' OPHTHALMOPATHY: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction. Graves' disease is a common autoimmune inflammatory condition of the thyroid. About one in four of affected patients also develop orbital symptoms like proptosis and diplopia – called Graves' Ophthalmopathy (GO). Orbital decompression surgery is a therapeutic option for these patients with varying success.

Case Description. year old male known to have Graves' disease diagnosed at the age of 52 years and has been on thiamazoli since diagnosis. He presented to the hospital complaining for double vision, eye tearing, eyelid oedema, redness, impaired vision for the last few months. Patient was a smoker for 35 years, continued to smoke during therapy as well. Ultrasonography of the thyroid showed enlarged both lobes of the thyroid, there was multiple, different sized nodes classified as TIRADS2 and TIRADS3 on the chronic thyroiditis structure. Thyroid was with a non-homogeneous structure, highly enhaced vascularization as in chronic autoimmune thyroiditis. Radiological examination showed bilaterally hypertrophied and enlarged extraocular muscles, compressed extraconal and intraconal fat tissue which leaded to compression on the optic nerves bilaterally at the tip level. Also severe proptosis bilaterally was spotted on the CT scan. Since systemic glucocorticoid therapy didn't help to stop the progress of the disease, a decision was made in favour of orbital decompression surgery as a therapeutic option. Surgery of both eyes was performed within two weeks.

Summary. CT is the most commonly utilized imaging technique for evaluating GO. Objective measures of appearance change include proptosis and fat prolapse. Imaging studies may be particularly helpful when decompressive surgery is planned. Awareness of this clinical presentation is important, as early detection and treatment can prevent visual complications.

Conclusions. Graves' Ophthalmopathy is a variant and therapeutically challenging disease. Orbital decompression surgery proved to be effective in saving the patients eyesight and improving quality of life.