Ophthalmalgia

Keywords: ocular pain, eye pain, ophthalmalgia, ophthalmalgie, oculodynia, ophthalmodynia

Editorial

Eye pain is also known as ophthalmalgia. Sometimes, the terms ‘ophthalmalgia’ or ‘ocular pain’ may be used interchangeably. Ophthalmalgia can be caused by various conditions, including but not limited to, head injuries, infections, tumors, and inflammatory disorders. The cause of eye pain varies widely and can be due to several factors such as mechanical irritation, inflammation, or neuralgia. Understanding the exact cause of eye pain can be challenging and may require a thorough diagnostic evaluation.

Oculodynia associated with light hypersensitivity has been defined as ‘photo-oculodynia syndrome’. It is an uncommon cause of chronic eye pain syndrome without signs of ocular inflammation and damage. Glaucoma shunt associated ophthalmalgia is a newly defined cause of eye pain. Recently, neuropathic ocular pain following the damage or injury to the somatosensory nervous system of the eye similar to post-herpetic neuralgia has been described. Some ocular diseases and surgeries/applications including kerato-conjunctivitis, dry eye, post-cataract surgery, post-laser/surgical kerato-refractive procedures, and contact lens wearing may cause ocular neuropathic pain.

In daily practice, it may be met with some patients which describe the eye pain as the feeling of burning, cutting, sharp, needling, foreign body, pins, and needles and pounding. These sensations are often due to ocular surface diseases and corneal abrasion, corneal or sub-scleral foreign body and they are included in neuropathic pain.

On the other hand, to detect the cause of pain in a quiet eye (with no red or injection) may not be easy and it may be the first sign of an ophthalmologic/neuro-ophthalmologic or a non-ophthalmologic disease originated from ocular, orbital, cranial, neurologic, and vascular tissues. These pathologies include posterior uveitis, retinitis, intraocular tumors, posterior scleritis, optic neuropathies and optic neuritis, narrow-angle glaucoma, sinusitis, trigeminal neuralgia, cluster headache, migraine, posterior communicating artery aneurysm, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, Tolosa-Hunt syndrome, carotid-cavernous fistula, air-traveling, cavernous sinus inflammation/thrombosis, transient ischemic attack, cerebrovascular events, temporal arteritis and elevated intracranial pressure. However, in some patients, the exact cause of the eye pain cannot be revealed despite all examinations and diagnostic methods and this eye pain may be called as idiopathic eye pain.

In conclusion, here, I just aimed to briefly emphasize the eye pain synonyms and its common causes.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflict of interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

Funding

The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Authorship contributions

Concept and design, literature search, analysis, interpretation: Burak Turgut.

References
