Teaching Video NeuroImages: Acute Adie syndrome

Benjamin R. Wakerley,
PhD, MRCP
Mei Hong Tan, MB,
ChB, BAO, PhD,
FRCophth
Martin R. Turner,
PhD, FRCP

Correspondence & reprint
requests to Dr. Turner:
martin.turner@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

A healthy 30-year-old woman reported acute painless enlargement of the right pupil, associated with mild ipsilateral photophobia and blurring. An enlarged right pupil was observed, constricting poorly to light and with segmental vermiform movements (figure). Generalized deep tendon hyporeflexia was noted. The tonic right pupil constricted 30 minutes after instillation of dilute pilocarpine (0.1%) solution. William John Adie¹ (1886–1935) described this benign condition predominantly in young women, postulated to be secondary to

viral ciliary ganglionitis. Russell² noted cases with a poor near as well as light response, which we postulate may be a feature of an acute syndrome.

REFERENCES

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Figure Pupil appearances in Adie syndrome

Parasympathetic denervation of the iris sphincter muscle in Adie syndrome results in an enlarged tonic right pupil reacting poorly to light (A, B). Near response was also impaired (C). It is supersensitive to cholinergic agents (pilocarpine 0.1%) (D). Paralysis of the iris results in characteristic segmental vermiform movements. These are visible superolaterally acutely and inferomedially 6 months later (video on the *Neurology*® Web site at www.neurology.org).

Supplemental data at
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From the Departments of Neurology (B.R.W.) and Ophthalmology (M.H.T.), Oxford University Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences (M.R.T.), John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK.

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to *Neurology.org* for full disclosures.

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Neurology 2012;79:e97

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182698cc5

This information is current as of September 10, 2012

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