Myopia/heavy eye syndrome

A rare cause of horizontal diplopia

Figure 1 MRI of the orbits showed elongation and superolateral displacement of the globes (arrows)

Figure 2 Stretching of the superior rectus–lateral rectus band (arrow) with inferior displacement of the lateral rectus muscles (horizontal lines), left greater than right

A 30-year-old woman with myopia (−8 diopters) developed binocular horizontal diplopia over a year. She had chronic migraine and no other symptoms. Ocular motility showed a comitant esotropia (20 diopters), and 2-diopter right hypertropia. MRI (figures 1 and 2) showed features of heavy eye syndrome,¹ which is associated with superotemporal prolapse of the posterior globe, degeneration of lateral rectus–superior rectus band, and

displacement of the lateral rectus downward.² The abduction failure may be confused with a sixth nerve palsy. Our patient was treated with prisms with partial success, which along with strabismus correction are the treatment options.

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