

Hydroxychloroquine

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Retinal toxicity in an elderly patient: case report

A 68-year-old woman developed retinal toxicity following treatment with hydroxychloroquine [Plaquenil; *therapeutic indication not stated*].

The woman presented with a 1-year history of bilateral 'blurred' vision. She had a history of systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis; oral hydroxychloroquine 200mg twice daily was administered for 15 years. Examination revealed 20/25 visual acuity, bilaterally; six colour plates were missed in both eyes. Bilateral posterior chamber intraocular lens implantation and keratoconjunctivitis sicca were observed by biomicroscopic examination. Pigment changes in an annular fashion affecting the maculae of both eyes were noted; a 'bull's-eye' pattern in the posterior pole was also observed by fluorescein angiography. Optical CT revealed loss of the inner/outer segment line and thinning of the retina; central scotoma was also noted bilaterally.

Hydroxychloroquine was withdrawn, and routine follow-up of retinal toxicity was initiated. [*Outcome not stated*].

Author comment: "*Toxicity typically occurs after a cumulative dose of 1,000 g Plaquenil-which equals 200 mg PO bid for seven years.*"

Mitchel Opremcak E. Plaquenil toxicity. *Insight* 38: 15, No. 3, Jan 2013 - USA

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