**Oral | Abstract 11**

MEDICAL RETINA (AMD, MACULAR EDEMA, CSCR, OTHERS)

## VARICELLA ZOOSTER RETINITIS

*2-min Case presentation*

**Baburdikar S.***

Dr. ~ Pune ~ India

Necrotising retinitis is a rapidly progressive and vision-threatening ocular condition most commonly associated with infection by Varicella zoster virus (VZV). We report a case of VZV-associated necrotising retinitis in an adult patient who presented with acute onset of decreased vision, ocular pain, redness, and floaters. Ocular examination revealed anterior chamber inflammation, dense vitritis, and peripheral areas of confluent retinal whitening with well-demarcated borders, consistent with retinal necrosis. Occlusive retinal vasculitis was hallmark. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis of intraocular fluid confirmed the presence of VZV DNA, establishing the diagnosis. The clinical picture was consistent with acute retinal necrosis (ARN) secondary to viral reactivation. Prompt treatment with intravenous acyclovir followed by oral antiviral therapy was initiated, along with adjunctive corticosteroids to control inflammation after adequate antiviral coverage. Despite aggressive management, the course was complicated by the development of retinal thinning, though progression of necrosis was successfully halted. This case highlights the aggressive nature of VZV-induced necrotising retinitis and underscores the importance of early diagnosis, rapid initiation of antiviral therapy, and close monitoring to prevent irreversible visual loss and sight-threatening complications.

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VZV-associated necrotising retinitis is an ophthalmic emergency characterized by rapid progression and a high risk of irreversible visual loss. This case emphasizes the importance of early clinical suspicion, prompt confirmation with intraocular fluid PCR, and immediate initiation of systemic antiviral therapy. Timely intervention, along with careful use of adjunctive corticosteroids and close follow-up, is essential to control inflammation, limit retinal destruction, and reduce the risk of complications such as retinal detachment. Early recognition and aggressive management remain the cornerstone for prognosis in necrotising retinitis caused by Varicella zoster virus.