

Case Study 12

Optic Nerve Druse and Disc Hemorrhage

SF is a 42-year-old woman who was noted on a routine eye examination to have peripapillary hemorrhage just inferior to her left optic disc. Visual field testing showed a focal arcuate defect superior to the blind spot. A fluorescein angiogram did not reveal any subretinal neovascularization.

B-scan demonstrated a tiny druse buried in the optic nerve head (Fig. 1) that was assumed to be the source of the hemorrhage, and the patient was told to follow up in 4 months unless any symptoms of visual loss or distortion occurred.

Echo spikes from calcium within the nerve substance, such as with calcified drusen, stand out in contrast to the relatively lower reflective nerve parenchyma. The same explanation applies to high reflective material within the optic nerve vasculature as sometimes found in central retinal artery emboli. Sergott and colleagues [7] reported that 31 % of patients with central retinal artery occlusions were found to have embolic material posterior

to the lamina cribrosa on B-scan evaluation with a color Doppler unit. These can also be demonstrated on a standard grayscale B-scan unit.

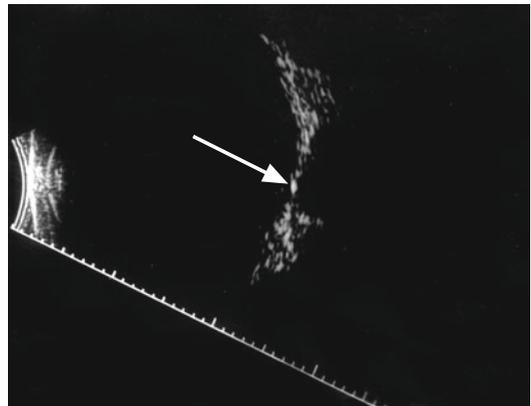


FIG. 1 B-scan of tiny buried druse (*arrow*)