

# Periorbital edema from apixaban treatment

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**Figure 1** Bilateral periorbital edema 2 weeks after initiation of apixaban

## CASE PRESENTATION

A 70-year-old female with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation presented with 2 weeks of progressive bilateral periorbital swelling and pruritus limited to her eyes. Her symptoms started 2 days after her oral anticoagulation was changed from warfarin to apixaban. She denied rash, shortness of breath, and tongue or lip swelling. She had made no other medication changes and had used no new facial products within that time period. Examination revealed bilateral eyelid edema with chemosis, tearing, and conjunctival hyperemia (Fig. 1). Her apixaban was discontinued and she was referred to ophthalmology. There were no visual changes on formal ophthalmologic examination, and the patient was instructed to apply triamcinolone cream locally for symptomatic relief. Within



**Figure 2** Resolution of periorbital edema after apixaban discontinuation

1 week, her symptoms had resolved (Fig. 2). She was subsequently started on rivaroxaban without issue.

Apixaban is a direct inhibitor of factor Xa for which no hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in the literature (other than product information reporting a frequency of 0.1–1%). The underlying mechanism resulting in periorbital edema remains unclear and is not established in the literature. Ours is the first report of bilateral periorbital edema likely from the use of apixaban with complete resolution of symptoms after cessation of the drug.

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**Conflict of interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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