Syndrome of Groenblad-Strandberg-Touraine

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A survey of 17 cases of the above syndrome is given, recorded in the last 3 years in the Eye Clinic of Rotterdam. 9 women and 8 men were involved. Symptoms involving the skin were verified clinically and/or histopathologically.

The authors report angioid streaks present in 15 patients, whereas in 10 a yellowish, gray patchy appearance of the central and temporal fundus was found. Atrophic macular degeneration was recorded in 5 patients (average age: 39 years). In 6, a disciform degeneration was met with (average age: 53 years), 5 times retinal hemorrhages, 4 times combined with a decreased capillary resistance of the skin. In 12 out of the 17 patients examined a low-grade myopia was found. 3 patients were emmetropic and 2 slightly hyperopic ($\frac{1}{8}$ D). 9 times an intermittent dysbasia was diagnosed. In 10 patients, 9 of them belonging to the dysbasia intermittent-group, a narrowing of the large arteries of the lower extremities was verified by oscillography. In 5 patients hypoxia of the heart-muscle was diagnosed by the ECG. In 1 patient an intestinal hemorrhage was recorded. In 13 cases a skin biopsy was performed. Apart from the well-known disturbances found in the elastic tissue—a thickening of the capillary wall was found in 11 patients. Electro-retinography and electro-oculography did not produce new information. The syndrome of Groenblad/Strandberg/Touraine has to be considered in the differential diagnosis of inexplicable disturbances of the heart and the peripheral circulatory systems, particularly at a relatively young age.

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Discussion

Schweitzer: One might imagine that tears in Bruch's membrane might cause lowering of the standing potential as a whole. In that case the percentage change of the potential in a given time as a function of adaptation might be unaltered, although the absolute values are lower. Did you measure the absolute values, or do you know of any relevant figures?

Van Balen replies that the absolute values have not been determined as they are of no significance and their level has no influence on the percentage change of the potential.

Waardenburg asks if intestinal haemorrhages also occurred. Van Balen replies that a gastric haemorrhage was observed once.