A Remarkable Intraocular Tumor

A.

Colenbrander

Leiden

Author's address: Dr. A. Colenbrander, Oogh. Afd., Acad. Ziekenhuis, Leiden (The Netherlands)

A 40-year-old woman came to our clinic, complaining of blurred vision in the left eye. We found VOS = 0.5 and a greyish prominence of 10 D in the macular area.

Although the patient was in apparent good health, it was known that she suffered from myelofibrosis. This diagnosis had been made one year previously as a result of a family investigation. Her identical twin sister had been in a very poor condition for several years, due to a terminal stage of the same disease.

It was speculated that the tumor of the choroid might be due to extra-medullarly located hematopoiesis. On this assumption radiotherapy was tried, and indeed the tumor regressed almost completely in the course of one month.

In the next month, however, her general condition deteriorated, she developed a pancytopenia complicated by septicemia and spontaneous hemorrhages. At this time a new tumor developed in fundus, this time next to the optic disc, vision was now more severely impaired.

Suddenly multiple tumors appeared in the skin, a week later the patient died. Her twin sister had died three weeks earlier.

Pathological examination indicated that the tumors in the eye and the skin were of the same reticular nature. At the autopsy of the twin sister no such tumors were found. How this tumor is related to the myelofibrosis, which ran so different a course in the two identical twin sisters will be discussed in a paper for the Netherlands Pathological Society.