Dear Sir,

After having read the paper of Dr. Kovács and Dr. Vastag entitled ‘Fluoroangiographic Picture of the Acute Stage of the Retinal Lesion in Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis’ in No. 5 of Ophthalmologica Vol. 177, we would like to congratulate the authors for their elegant documentation of an interesting case.

We would also like to comment on the point of discussion, concerning previously published fluoroangiographic findings in SSPE. In addition to Karel et al. [1971] the scar stages of the lesion have previously been presented by Vannas et al. [1971] from Finland and by Kasperek and Gluza [1976] from Poland. A fresh retinal lesion in association with measles encephalopathy was fluoro-angiographically documented by Haltia et al. [1977] in a case, in which the presence of structures with the morphological and antigenic properties of measles virus in the affected areas of the retina was shown by electron microscopy and indirect immunofluorescence [Haltia et al., 1978]. In this case the fluoroangiographic picture was suggestive of early lesion of the pigment epithelium. The histological study showed lesions of both neuroretina and pigment epithelium. The presence of viral structures, verified by ultrastructural and immunofluorescent studies was, however, shown only in the neuroretina.

The fluoroangiographic pictures in the two cases presented show some divergent features. The retinal vascular involvement, frankly demonstrated in the case of Kovács and Vastag, does not seem to be established in our angiogram of the early lesion. On the other hand, the features suggestive of a lesion of the pigment epithelium shown during the early phase of the angiography in our case, are not visible in the pictures presented by Kovács and Vastag. The histological examination of the lesion revealed lack of inflammatory changes, which could be attributable to the immunosuppressive therapy given. This artificial immunosuppression might also explain the divergent fluoroangiographic features. Helsinki, March 6, 1979

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References


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