

Subspecialty – Intraocular inflammation, uveitis & scleritis



Prof Shigeaki Ohno (Japan)

- **Prevalence and diagnosis of retinal vasculitis in Japan**

Prof Ohno is Professor and Chairman, Department of Ocular Inflammation and Immunology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan. His area of interest is uveitis, external diseases, and ocular inflammation.

Prof Ohno will talk about changing patterns of prevalence and diagnosis of retinal vasculitis in Japan. “Behcet’s disease used to be the most frequent cause of retinal vasculitis in Japan. However, its prevalence started to decrease from around 1985. New cases have decreased not only in ophthalmology but also in dermatology and rheumatology. This epidemiological change seems to occur only in Japan, and several possible speculations have been postulated to elucidate this decrease. Behcet’s disease is now the third frequent cause of uveitis and intraocular inflammation in Japan.”

“On the other hand, sarcoidosis has constantly been increasing in Japan, and it is now the most frequently encountered form of retinal vasculitis in Japan. The second biggest cause of uveitis is Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada(VKH) disease. However, we have to remember that VKH disease shows no retinal vasculitis, although they exhibit choroidal vasculitis.”

“For the correct diagnosis of retinal vasculitis, it is important to utilise various ocular investigations such as fluorescein angiography, indocyanine green angiography, and laser speckle flowgraphy, in addition to full ocular and laboratory examinations.”



Prof Narsing Rao (USA)

- **Immunopathology of retinal vasculitis**

Prof Rao is Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology, Doheny Eye Institute, University Of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA.

“Etiologic diagnosis and treatment of retinal vasculitis is a clinical challenge and this is in part due to lack of clear understanding of diagnostic criteria, pathogenesis and its variable association with, or without, systemic diseases such as Behcet’s disease, sarcoidosis and infectious causes including systemic tuberculosis. One approach in developing diagnostic criteria would be immunohistologic approach.”

“The session entitled ‘Behcet’s disease and other retinal vasculitis’ will focus on the immunohistologic analysis of retinal vasculature involved with inflammatory processes. The immunologic data in support of the retinal vasculitis primarily mediated by T-cell process will be shown, and selection of appropriate therapeutic agents to subdue the aberrant T-cell immune process in the treatment of retinal vasculitis will be highlighted for clinical practice.”

Note: All effort has been made to check facts with each presenter. The writer accepts responsibility for any inadvertent errors in transcript.