
An unexpected manifestation of anemia

A 34-year old man, an alcohol abuser with a history of duodenal ulcer, complained of a sudden decrease of vision. One week before a pericarditis had been diagnosed and therapy including aspirin had been started. Fundoscopic examination of both eyes revealed bilateral widespread intraretinal hemorrhages at the posterior pole and subhyaloid hemorrhages involving the fovea (Figures 1 and 2).

The patient had severe anemia (Hb 5.3 g/dL, MCV 123 fL), and very low B12 and folate levels (six months previously the values were Hb 14.4 g/dL with MCV 111 fL). Gastroscopy showed antral erosive gastropathy. After adequate management, retinal hemorrhages were reabsorbed though vision recovered in only one eye.

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Figure 1.



Figure 2.