



## Ocular complications in autoimmune rheumatic disease – still a current topic

Ocular involvement in autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARD) is a separate problem in everyday-practice both for rheumatologist and ophthalmologists. This subject is multifaceted due to the problem of diagnosis of symptoms of rheumatic disease in ophthalmological practice, and a challenge for rheumatologists in the assessment and treatment of eye involvement in ARD. Especially spondyloarthropathies are associated with uveitis, vasculitides with scleritis, episcleritis and retinitis and dry eye disease (DED) occurs in Sjögren's disease and other ARD. A separate but extremely important topic is the involvement of the visual organ in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, where uveitis may be asymptomatic and the consequences in the form of vision loss are real and giant cell arteritis with extracranial and intracranial manifestation and with central retinal artery occlusion. It's also important to remember the increased risk of infection with damage to the ocular surface. All of these complications carry the risk of vision deterioration or even loss and may indicate the more severe course of the autoimmune disease.

This general list of problems in ARD associated with eye involvement clearly indicates the need for cooperation between rheumatologists and ophthalmologists in the management of patients with ARD and for jointly deepening knowledge about changes in the eyes in the course of these diseases. Current advances in techniques for assessing ocular structures, knowledge of the immunological basis of ocular involvement in ARD, and innovative therapies in rheumatology raise hopes for increasingly better cooperation, early detection of problems, and effective management.

Taking into account the issues discussed, and particularly frequent occurrence of DED in patients with ARD, I invited ophthalmologist Prof. Adam Wylegała from the Experimental Ophthalmology Unit, Department of Biophysics, Medical University of Silesia, Railway Hospital, Katowice, Poland, to write an editorial devoted to this topic. I hope that presenting the possibilities of assessing dry eye will be useful and perhaps insightful for all those dealing with ARD.

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