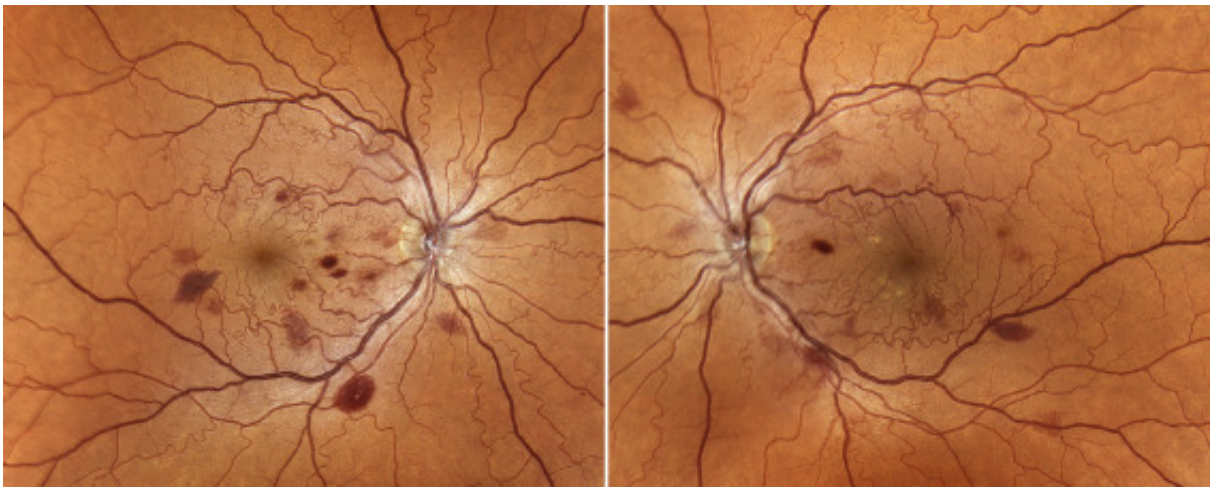
Diffuse spontaneous intraretinal hemorrhages in familial retinal arteriolar tortuosity



A 51-year-old healthy woman presented with a 3-month history of bilateral scattered scotomas. There was no history of anticoagulant use, Valsalva, or trauma. Family history was noted for episodic retinal hemorrhages of unknown cause in her mother.

Visual acuity was 20/20-1 OD and 20/25-2 OS. Fundus examination demonstrated bilateral tortuosity of retinal arteries and scattered intraretinal hemorrhages around the macula (Fig. 1). Investigations for hematologic and infectious etiologies were negative.

Fig. 1Color fundus photographs (Eidon Imaging System, Centervue Inc, Fremont, CA) of both eyes show marked tortuosity of the second- and third-order retinal arterioles and normal large retinal arteries and veins. Both eyes demonstrate diffuse intraretinal and sub-internal limiting membrane hemorrhages. The corkscrew-shaped small arterioles in the perifoveal, macular, and peripapillary region are a unique feature of this rare condition.

Familial retinal arteriolar tortuosity is characterized by pathognomonic arteriolar tortuosity and autosomal dominant inheritance. Vision impairment from intermittent retinal hemorrhages is seen following minor stress or trauma, but prognosis is usually excellent with spontaneous resolution of hemorrhages.

Footnotes and Disclosure

The authors have no proprietary or commercial interest in any materials discussed in this article.

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Figures

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