

WHAT'S BEHIND THE EYE? A DETAILED CASE ANALYSIS OF ORBITAL LYMPHOMA



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INTRODUCTION

Orbital lymphoma is a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), comprising just **1%** of all NHL cases, with the majority being **extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphomas (MALT)**. The non-specific symptoms, such as **painless swelling** and **gradual proptosis**, often lead to diagnostic delays. Immunosuppression, whether from conditions like **AIDS**, immunosuppressive drugs, or aging, is a significant factor in its development. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial, but subtle clinical signs often complicate the diagnostic process.

HISTORY AND EXAMINATION

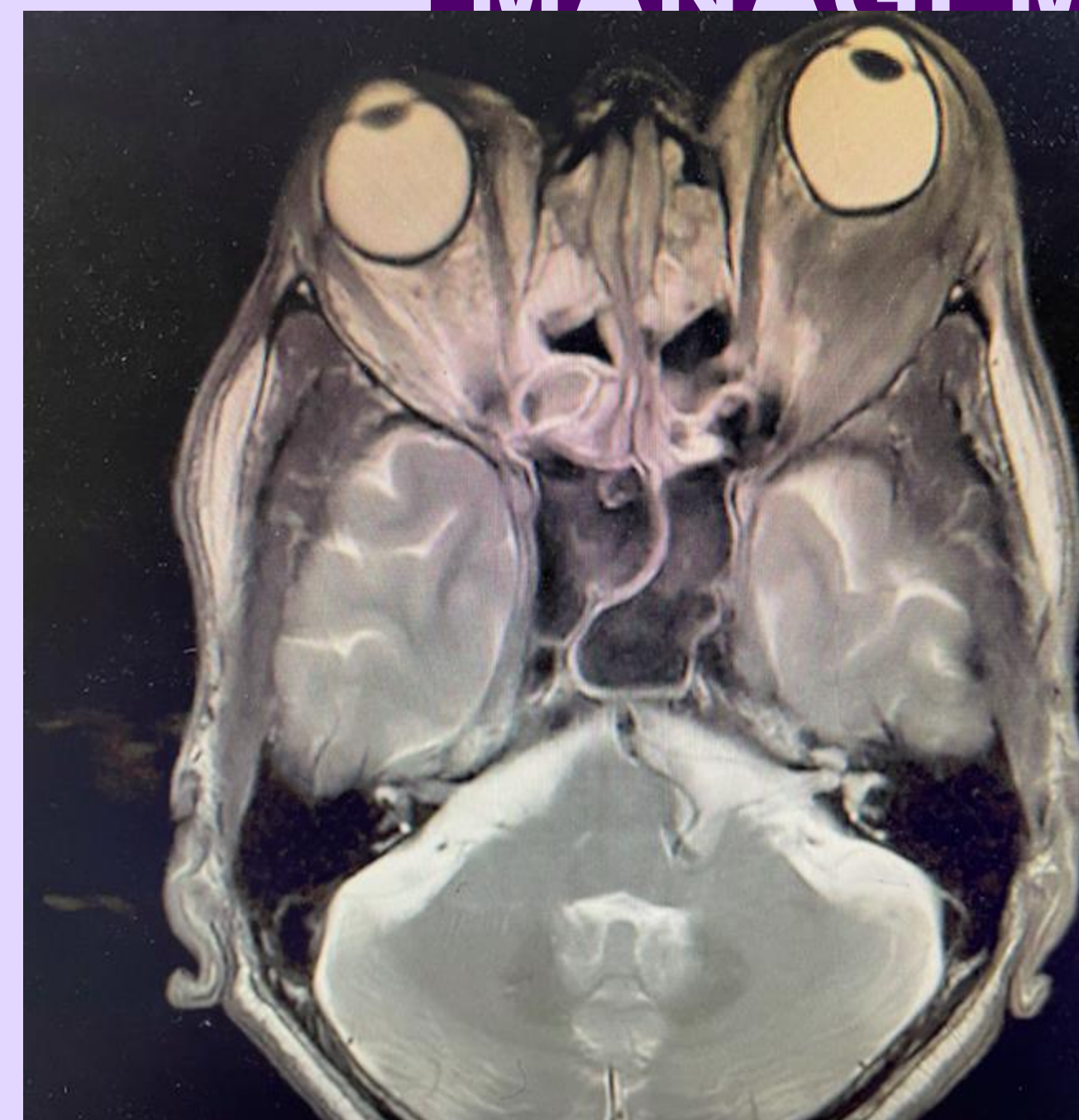
A **63-year-old male** presented with a **9-month history** of progressive **left eye proptosis**, initially painless and insidious. Over time, he experienced **restricted eye movements** and **diplopia**, particularly during left gaze. The patient eventually noted **gradual vision loss** in the left eye.



Left Eye: Axial proptosis, inferior conjunctival chemosis, and **tortuous vessels**. **Restricted elevation and abduction** with **Grade 1 RAPD**.

- **Visual Acuity:** 6/6, N6 (right eye); 6/36, N24 (left eye)
- **Lymphadenopathy:** Cervical, axillary, and inguinal lymph nodes were palpable.

MANAGEMENT



MRI revealed a **heterogeneously enhancing soft tissue lesion** in the left orbit, involving the **superior and lateral rectus muscles**, with mild extraconal extension but no bony involvement.

CT and MRI findings suggested **orbital lymphoma**. An excisional biopsy of the inguinal lymph node confirmed **CD20+ lymphoma**.

Biopsy: Extensive amyloid and lymphoid cells were noted, confirming **MALT lymphoma**.

Chemotherapy: The patient received **Cyclophosphamide, Bendamustine** and **Rituximab**, showing improvement in **proptosis** and **chemosis**.

Follow-up:

- 1.No bone marrow involvement was found on aspiration
2. Two months into treatment , he presented with **exertional dyspnea** and was managed symptomatically

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This case underscores the importance of recognizing **orbital lymphoma** in elderly patients with **progressive proptosis** and **restricted eye movements**.

The delayed diagnosis, despite early symptoms, highlights the challenge in detecting such rare tumors. The case is unique due to **extensive lymphadenopathy** and the potential for **intracranial extension**, which required aggressive treatment.

The patient's positive response to **chemotherapy** with improvement in **proptosis** and **visual acuity** underscores the favorable prognosis of **MALT lymphoma** when treated in a timely manner.

