

Medicine beyond frontiers

PD18

The 42nd Annual Medical Congress

Ophthalmic Clues to Distant Cancers

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The eye and distant cancers are related in many ways. Metastasis from distant cancers or direct invasion from nearby tumors to the eye, ocular adnexa, and the visual pathway may result in deformity, visual loss, and other visual disabilities. The ophthalmic manifestation may contribute as a part of a syndrome. More interestingly, circulating antibodies involving paraneoplastic conditions, play an important role in the ophthalmic symptoms and signs in some cancers.

This review is intended to specifically discuss on the ophthalmic clues to distant cancers, but not on the metastatic diseases to the eye. The details include common conditions that the patients might have presented at the eye clinic on routine visits. These symptoms vary from no symptoms, ptosis, lid masses, visual loss, to visual field defect. The high index of suspicion will facilitate the ophthalmologists to diagnose occult neoplasm of the organs such as pituitary tumors, gastrointestinal cancers, breast cancers, and be able to save the patient's lives due to timely diagnosis of the diseases.