INTERNAL MEDICINE

□ PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE □

Markedly Ring-enhanced Optic Nerves Due to Metastasis of Signet-ring Cell Gastric Carcinoma

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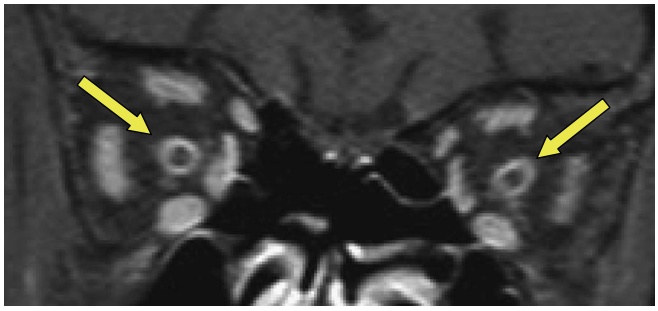

Picture 1. Coronal fat-suppressed MRI with gadolinium showed a marked ring enhancement of the surrounding optic nerves (arrows).

Signet-ring cell carcinoma frequently causes leptomeningeal carcinomatosis, one cause of optic neuropathy in elderly patients. A 77-year-old woman had shown progressive bilateral blindness for one month without any other symptoms. Coronal fat-suppressed MRI with gadolinium showed a marked ring enhancement of the surrounding optic nerves (Picture 1). CSF cytodiagnosis and histopathological examination of the gastric biopsy samples revealed signet-ring cell carcinoma. The patient was diagnosed with leptomeningeal carcinomatosis due to gastric cancer. She died 2 weeks after the diagnosis. Coronal fat-suppressed MRI with gadolinium is useful for the differential diagnosis of optic neuropathy, especially leptomeningeal carcinomatosis (1, 2).

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