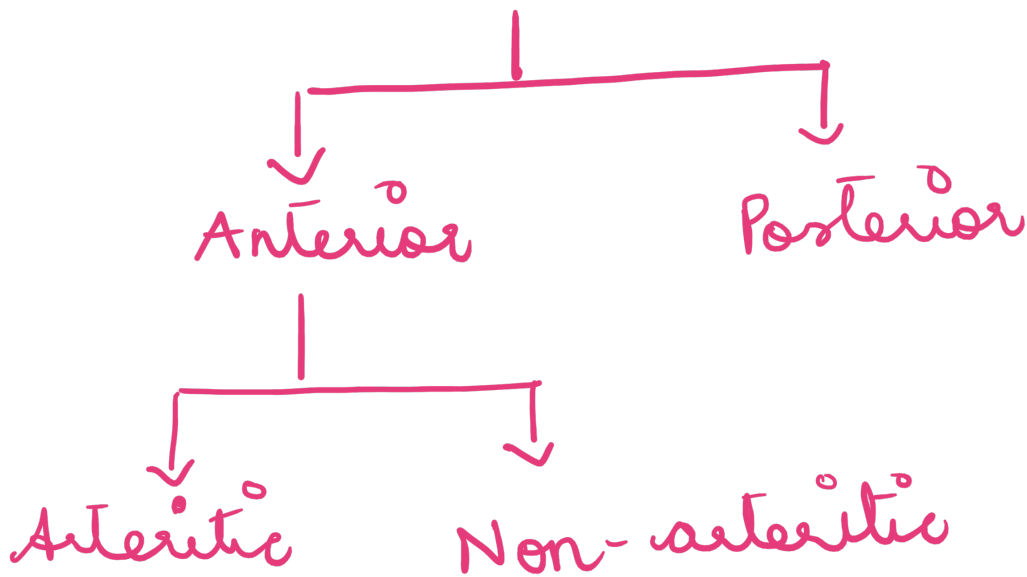


# AION



**Dr. Harinikrishna**  
Aravind eye hospital,  
Madurai

## ION



## NAION

Non-arteritic AION is caused by occlusion of short posterior ciliary arteries resulting in infarction of the optic nerve head.

### Etiology :-

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Small crowded disc

- Hyperlipidemia
- Collagen vascular diseases
- Nocturnal hypotension
- Sleep apnea syndrome
- Hyperhomocystinemia

## Presentation :-

Most common in 6th-7th decades.

## Symptoms :-

Sudden, Painless, unilateral loss of vision.

## Signs :-

- Moderate to severe visual impairment
- Colour vision is defective

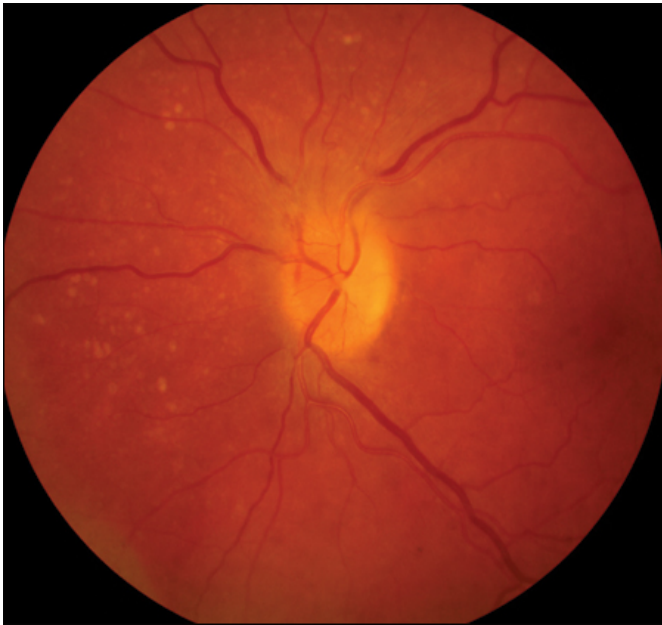
- Visual field defects .

Most common - Inferior  
altitudinal  
field defects .

- Fundus examination reveals

SECTORAL / DIFFUSE DISC EDEMA

with peripapillary disc  
hemorrhages .



Dirty white pallor of optic disc  
sets in after 3-6 weeks .

## Investigations :-

- BP
- Blood sugar
- Lipid profile
- Ix to rule out
- Serum homocysteine

## Treatment :-

- Control of systemic conditions
- Aspirin, antiplatelets have been tried.
- Oral prednisolone in tapering doses.

## Prognosis :-

- Recurrence can occur in 6% of patients
- Involvement of other eye can occur in 10-15% of patient.
- Strict control of systemic conditions is warranted.



# ARTERITIC AION

AAION is caused by giant cell arteritis. Elderly (>60 years) are affected.

## GIANT CELL ARTERITIS

- granulomatous, necrotizing affecting medium and large sized arteries.
- Superficial temporal A, ophthalmic artery, posterior ciliary artery commonly involved.

## Clinical features of GCA :-

- Scalp tenderness
- Temporal / occipital headache
- Jaw claudication - due to ischemia of masseter muscle.
- Pain and stiffness in the

# proximal muscle groups called

## Polymyalgia rheumatica

- Thickened tender inflamed nodular superficial temporal arteries — Cannot be flattened against the skull.
- Non pulsatile superficial temporal artery.



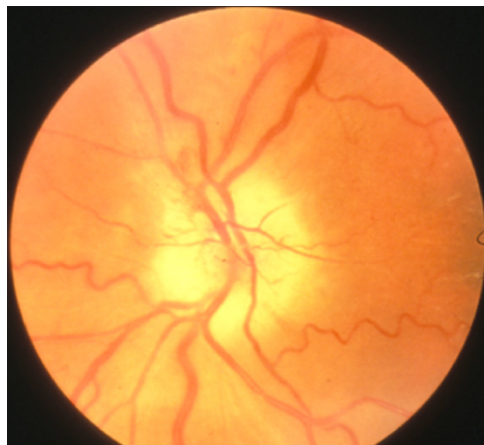
- Aortic incompetence, dissecting aneurysms, myocardial infarctions are rare complications.

# Ophthalmic manifestations of GCA

30-50% of untreated patients develop AAION.

U/L, sudden, profound loss of vision with periorbital pain.

- vision loss is severe usually only perception of light (PL+)
- Fundus examination reveals chalky white edematous disc.



Can also be associated with

- Central retinal artery occlusion (CRAO)
- Choroidal artery occlusion.



AAION  
with  
choroidal  
artery  
occlusion

## Investigations :-

Diagnostic criteria	
If a patient possesses $\geq 3$ criteria, GCA is diagnosed:	1. Patient age $>50$ years
	2. New-onset headache
	3. Temporal artery abnormality (tenderness to palpation or decreased pulsation, unrelated to atherosclerosis of cervical arteries)
	4. Elevated ESR $\geq 50$ mm/h
	5. Abnormal TAB

- ESR - very high  $> 50$  mm/hr
- CRP
- Complete blood count

- Temporal artery biopsy - should be done within 3 days of starting steroids.

• Temple is the best location for biopsy.

• At least 2.5 cm of artery should be taken to avoid skip lesions.

- Color doppler - hyperchoic halo around superficial temporal artery.

- Extracranial large vessel imaging to rule out any aneurysms / dissections.

## Treatment :-

- iv methyl prednisolone 1g/day  
for 3 days  
↓  
oral prednisolone (60mg)  
↓  
tapered by 5mg weekly.

- Enteric coated prednisolone
- Antiplatelet - T. aspirin (150mg/day)
- Immunosuppressives used in steroid resistant cases.

## Prognosis :-

Very poor prognosis as optic atrophy sets in with permanent profound visual loss.



# PION

- Due to ischemia of retro-laminar portion of nerve supplied by pial plexus.

Operative PION - Due to hypovolemic hypotension following long surgical procedures.

Arteritic PION - Due to giant cell arteritis

Non-arteritic PION - Due to diabetes, hypertension, nocturnal hypotension