

Sub-RPE Neovascularopathy

Massimo Nicolo, MD, Ph.D.
Clinica Oculistica Università di Genova
Italia

We present an observational case series of 16 patients characterized by the presence of a subtle neovascular net growing horizontally underneath flat or undulated RPE detachment and visible only at OCT angiography. Coexisting signs when present were pathognomonic of different macular conditions, like age-related macular degeneration, central serous chorioretinopathy, idiopathic polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy and also diabetic retinopathy. In some cases, there was subretinal fluid over the RPE detachment while in another cases macula was completely dry with no sign of exudation. Choroidal thickness varied from thick to thin.

With the introduction of OCT-angiography and the increase image resolution of swept-source technology new clinical entity are identified easily. Previous authors described neovessels growing under flat RPE detachment in chronic central serous chorioretinopathy. We expanded the spectrum of disease in which this relatively new clinical entity can be found and name it sub-RPE neovascularopathy. To date it is not clear if sub-RPE neovascularopathy should be aggressively treated with anti-VEGF drugs or photodynamic therapy or simply followed. Swept-source OCT angiography should be considered in the diagnosis and follow-up of macular disease in order to highlight this peculiar neovascularization.