Hyperviscosity syndrome

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A 47-year-old man was admitted to the intensive care unit for stupor and dyspnea. He reported a 3-day history of blurry vision and nosebleeds. Laboratory tests revealed hyperproteinemia at 161 g/L (reference range 60–80 g/L). Funduscopic examination revealed bilateral retinal hemorrhages with venous dilation and tortuosity (Fig. 1) confirming the diagnosis of hyperviscosity syndrome. Serum protein immunofixation assay identified an IgG kappa monoclonal immunoglobulin and bone marrow aspiration revealed infiltration by dystrophic plasma cells, consistent with multiple myeloma. All the patient's complaints disappeared after two rounds of plasmapheresis.

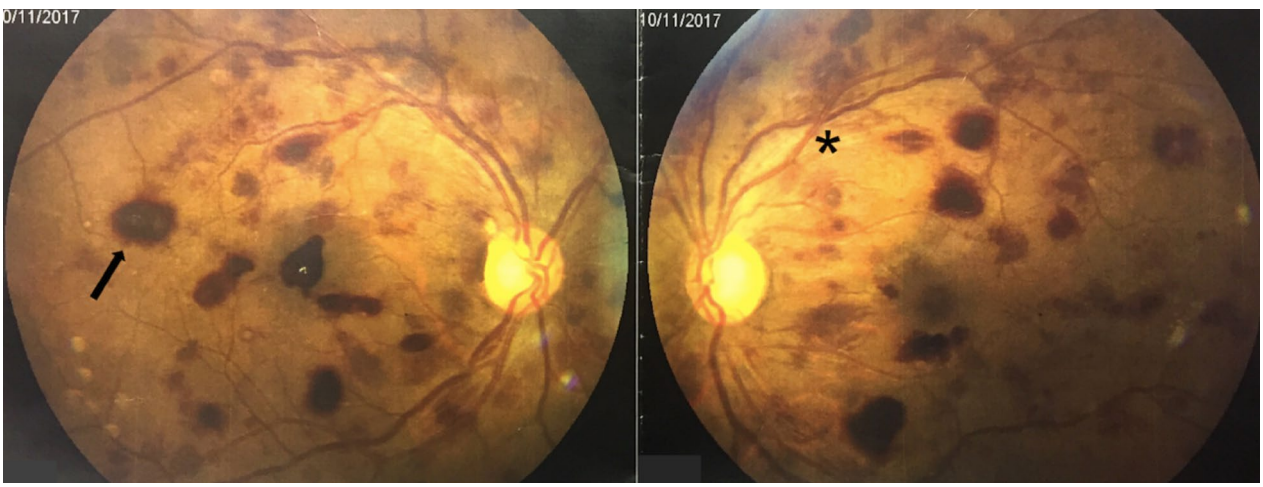

Fig. 1 Fundus image of a 47-year-old man with history of stupor, blurry vision, and nosebleeds. Bilateral retinal vein dilation, tortuosity (star), and voluminous central hemorrhages (arrow)

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Author contributions
GD wrote the manuscript; GD, PG, NB, and EM were in charge of the patient.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest
The authors have no conflict of interest to declare regarding the material discussed in the manuscript.