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# COVID-19是视神经和视网膜急性血管疾病发展的新风险因素

© Vadim A. Turgel<sup>1</sup>, Vladimir A. Antonov<sup>1</sup>, Svetlana N. Tultseva<sup>1</sup>, Fedor E. Shadrichev<sup>2</sup>, Niurguyana N. Grigorieva<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Academician I.P. Pavlov First St. Petersburg State Medical University, Saint Petersburg, Russia;

<sup>2</sup> St. Petersburg Territorial Diabetology Center, Saint Petersburg, Russia

新型冠状病毒感染(COVID-19)是一种病毒性呼吸道疾病,伴有系统性“内皮炎”。COVID-19患者常常表现出与高凝状态、纤维蛋白溶解度低、血管内血小板聚集增加有关的变化,以及血管壁的抗血栓能力下降和血管舒缩功能受损,这显著增加了血栓栓塞并发症的风险。目前正在积极研究COVID-19与视神经和视网膜的血管性和炎症性病变相关的致病因素。诱发眼部血管血流受损的原因之一可能是在感染过程的急性期观察到的灌注压下降。这既是由于其临床过程的特殊性,也是由于所采取的抢救措施的特殊性。作为感染后血管壁损伤的机制,其继发性自身免疫性炎症被认为是一个重要的因素。本出版物是第一个冠状病毒相关的缺血性神经炎的例子,它研究了这些疾病之间可能的致病关系。

**关键词:** COVID-19; AION; 前部缺血性神经病变; 缺血性神经病变; 糖尿病性视网膜病变; 视网膜血管疾病。

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# COVID-19 as a new risk factor for the development of acute vascular diseases of the optic nerve and retina

© Vadim A. Turgel<sup>1</sup>, Vladimir A. Antonov<sup>1</sup>, Svetlana N. Tultseva<sup>1</sup>, Fedor E. Shadrichev<sup>2</sup>, Niurguyana N. Grigorieva<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Academician I.P. Pavlov First St. Petersburg State Medical University, Saint Petersburg, Russia;

<sup>2</sup> St. Petersburg Territorial Diabetology Center, Saint Petersburg, Russia

The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a viral respiratory infection accompanied by systemic "endotheliitis". COVID-19 patients usually encounter changes related to hypercoagulability, hypofibrinolysis, and increased intravascular platelet aggregation. There is also a vascular wall thromboresistance decrease and impaired vasomotor function, which significantly increase the risk of thromboembolic complications. Currently, pathogenic aspects of the relationship between COVID-19 and vascular and inflammatory conditions of the optic nerve and retina are actively investigated. One of the triggers of impaired blood flow in ocular vessels may be a perfusion pressure decrease, observed in the acute period of the infectious process. This is related to both COVID-19 clinical course features and to resuscitation specificity as well. Secondary autoimmune inflammation is being considered as a mechanism of damage to the vascular wall in the post-infectious period. In this publication, possible pathogenic links of these diseases are considered for the first time in a specific context of the example of ischemic optic neuropathy associated with coronavirus infection.

**Keywords:** COVID-19; AION; anterior ischemic optic neuropathy; ischemic optic neuropathy; diabetic retinopathy; retinal vascular diseases.

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# COVID-19 как новый фактор риска развития острых сосудистых заболеваний зрительного нерва и сетчатки

© В.А. Тургель<sup>1</sup>, В.А. Антонов<sup>1</sup>, С.Н. Тульцева<sup>1</sup>, Ф.Е. Шадричев<sup>2</sup>, Н.Н. Григорьева<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Первый Санкт-Петербургский государственный медицинский университет им. акад. И.П. Павлова, Санкт-Петербург, Россия;

<sup>2</sup> Санкт-Петербургский территориальный диабетологический центр, Санкт-Петербург, Россия

Новая коронавирусная инфекция (COVID-19) — это вирусное респираторное заболевание, сопровождающееся системным «эндотелиитом». У пациентов с COVID-19 нередко наблюдаются изменения, связанные с гиперкоагуляцией, гипофибринолизом, повышением внутрисосудистой агрегации тромбоцитов, также происходит снижение тромбозрентности сосудистой стенки и нарушение вазомоторной функции, что значительно увеличивает риск развития тромбоэмбологических осложнений. В настоящее время активно изучаются патогенетические аспекты связи COVID-19 с сосудистыми и воспалительными поражениями зрительного нерва и сетчатки. Одним из триггеров нарушения кровотока в сосудах глаза может стать снижение перфузионного давления, наблюдаемое в острый период инфекционного процесса. Это связано как с особенностью его клинического течения, так и со спецификой проводимых реанимационных мероприятий. В качестве механизма поражения сосудистой стенки в постинфекционном периоде, рассматривается её вторичное аутоиммунное воспаление. В данной публикации впервые на примере ассоциированной с коронавирусной инфекцией ишемической нейрооптикопатией рассматриваются возможные патогенетические связи этих заболеваний.

**Ключевые слова:** COVID-19; ПИН; передняя ишемическая нейрооптикопатия; ишемическая нейрооптикопатия; диабетическая ретинопатия; сосудистые заболевания сетчатки.

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## 引言

2019年11月,中国报告了首例新感染伴有非典型肺炎急性呼吸综合征病例。该疾病随后被命名为新型冠状病毒感染COVID 19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019)。该疾病是由一种新型冠状病毒SARS-CoV 2 (严重急性呼吸系统综合症冠状病毒2)引起。

由于高度的传染性和世界范围内病例的迅速增加,2020年3月11日,世界卫生组织宣布了开始COVID19大流行[1]。该疾病的流行率持续增长,自2020年3月以来,COVID 19的新病例在一年内增加了200多倍,截至2021年3月已超过1.16亿人,COVID 19相关的死亡人数已经达到250万[1]。

根据现代概念,COVID 19目前被认为是一种病毒性呼吸道疾病,伴有血管内皮参与过程(局部和/或全身性«内皮炎»)以及相关的高凝血症[2]。根据俄罗斯的COVID 19预防、诊断和治疗指南,该病有4种严重程度:轻度、中度、重度和极重度。COVID 19的严重程度由体温、呼吸频率、血氧饱和度、根据计算机断层扫描的肺组织变化特点以及是否存在并发症来判定。高危人群包括患有糖尿病(DM)、动脉高血压(AH)、代谢综合征、血脂异常等合并症的患者[3]。COVID 19的并发症与死亡率的显著增加有关[4]。例如,没有并发症的患者死亡率为0.9%,而糖尿病和高血压控制不佳的患者死亡率分别为7.3%和6%[5]。

COVID 19的主要死因是血栓栓塞性并发症、呼吸衰竭和多器官衰竭[6]。

SARS-CoV 2通过血管紧张素转换酶2(ACE 2)的受体进入人体细胞。ACE 2受体大量存在于血管内皮,因此,血管发达的器官和组织,包括大脑和眼睛是COVID 19的主要目标器官[7]。

许多作者认为冠状病毒患者的视网膜变化是全身性内皮炎的表现。2020年3月,«柳叶刀»杂志首次报道了关于«新冠后视网膜病变»这一课题。作者描述了在检查的12名COVID 19患者中,有4名患者的眼底出现了棉絮斑和视网膜内出血[8]。后来其他眼科医生也报道了类似的变化,将其出现与严重的视网膜灌注异常联系起来[9-11]。该领域最广泛的研究是SERPICO 19 (ScrEening the Retina in Patients wIth COVID 19),该研究显示,在接受COVID 19治疗的患者中,有27.7%的患者出现了病理性静脉扩张,7.4%的患者还有棉絮斑,9.3%的患者有视网膜内出血。视网膜变化的程度与基础疾病的严重程度相关[12]。

COVID相关的病症还包括发展为急性旁中心间型黄斑病变/急性黄斑神经性视网膜病变[13],视网膜动静脉闭塞[14-17]和视网膜及视神经血管的炎症性疾病[18]。

这些情况与COVID 19之间的关联问题仍有待商榷。

然而,不能否认的是,在COVID 19中,这些眼病的发展存在致病的先决条件。这些可能既与疾病本身的过程有关,也与病人治疗的细微差别有关。

眼部所有急性血管疾病发展的重要条件是:血栓形成潜力增加(全部和局部)和灌注压降低(急剧短期或中度长期)。两者都可以在新型冠状病毒感染中观察到。让我们依次考虑它们。

由于COVID 19中的SARS-CoV 2病毒抑制了ACE 2酶的活性,体内肾素-血管紧张素-醛固酮系统(RAAS)酶的平衡向血管紧张素II的主要作用转变:血管收缩、增殖、纤维化和炎症的维持[19]。这反过来又增加了整体血管阻力。COVID 19中以«内皮炎»形式出现的内皮损伤伴随着全身微血管功能障碍。血管舒缩调节的破坏导致血管收缩,而内皮和内皮下结构屏障功能的破坏导致间质水肿并引发一连串的炎症反应。血小板粘附因子合成的增加和组织凝血酶原激活剂的水平下降,伴随着血栓形成潜力的增加和血管血栓阻力的降低。总之,所有这些变化都为血栓栓塞并发症的发展创造了条件[20]。伴随这一过程的明显炎症成分,在某些情况下以过度反应的形式发展一细胞因子风暴,导致恶性循环,发展为系统性内皮病和多器官衰竭[21]。

目前正在考虑SARS-CoV 2对内皮细胞的几种作用机制。主要型式包括直接破坏性病毒效应,通常在疾病的急性期表现出来,以及随着在疾病后期发生的自身免疫性炎症的免疫失调。这解释了在病毒性疾病的急性期和恢复期出现大量的血栓和脉管炎的原因。就延迟的并发症而言,最危险的是康复期(前40-50天)[14]。

当提到整个的血管灌注压时,它取决于动脉和静脉压力的差异。因此,眼睛血管和眶内神经的灌注压力取决于睫状后短动脉、视网膜中央动脉和静脉压的压力差,但要考虑到眼内压。这些动脉的压力下降主要是由眼动脉、颈内动脉和/或颈外动脉的痉挛/狭窄或栓塞造成的。视网膜中央静脉和眼眶静脉的静脉压力升高,通常与炎症、外流受阻或海绵窦血栓形成有关。这些过程可能会因中度和重度冠状病毒感染患者治疗

的某些特点而加剧[22]。所谓Valsalva综合征的作用,发生在俯卧位的肺部通气过程中,现在被广泛讨论为COVID 19患者静脉和眼压升高的主要原因[23]。血液中气体成分的破坏发挥了重要作用[23]。

作为上述证明,这里有一个患有COVID 19的患者发生缺血性视神经视网膜病变的临床病例。这是第一次描述与冠状病毒感染相关的缺血性视神经视网膜病变。

## 病例报告

患者V, 61岁,住院25天,诊断为“新型冠状病毒感染COVID 19, 病程严重, 表现为社区获得性双侧多节段性肺炎, 并发2度呼吸衰竭。伴随疾病: 2型糖尿病, II级腹部肥胖, III期高血压, 冠心病, 动脉粥样硬化性心脏病, 慢性心力衰竭心功能II级。

由于计算机断层扫描(CT)显示的肺组织损伤面积增加, 呼吸衰竭加剧, 患者在患病的第10至20天进入重症监护室并进行了无创肺部通气。根据COVID 19的预防、诊断和治疗指南, 由于血糖水平较高, 患者转入胰岛素泵治疗, 并接受了一个疗程的糖皮质激素和抗凝剂治疗。从病程的特点中值得注意的是血浆中高葡萄糖水平(高达19.96 mmol/l)、高纤维蛋白原血症和高胆固醇血症。

患者在第25天以相对满意的状态出院, 并建议继续进行联合降糖治疗, 包括口服降糖药和胰岛素治疗。2.5周后, 早晨醒来后, 患者发现视力下降以及右眼后方有疼痛感。深入的眼科检查(视力测量、裂隙灯、眼底镜、光学相干断层扫描(OCT)、B-扫描)显示没有客观证据可以解释这些症状。双眼的矫正视力为1.0。右眼眼底显示鼻侧的视神经盘边界模糊不清, 两只眼睛都显示出非增殖性糖尿病视网膜病变及左眼形成大动脉瘤的特征性变化。

为了明确诊断, 患者接受了脑部磁共振成像(MRI)、磁共振血管成像(MRA)以及一般临床和生化血液检查。

根据脑部MRI显示没有大的形成物, 也没有脑实质的局灶性改变, 相对于左侧视神经(6.3毫米), 右侧视神经球后段扩张达6.6毫米。视神经组织的信号强度没有变化。MRA显示没有血流动力学上明显的狭窄、动脉瘤或血管畸形。

尽管在医院接受了对应的联合降糖治疗, 但葡萄糖水平仍然升高到10.83毫摩尔/升, 糖化

血红蛋白为10.0%。先前发现的高胆固醇血症(6.30毫摩尔/升)持续存在, 而且肾小球滤过率下降到64毫升/分钟。在血液临床分析中, 未显示与参考值有明显偏差。

在接下来的5天里, 右眼的视力下降到眼前手动。右眼的真实眼压为15mmHg, 左眼为16 mmHg。阈值视野显示左眼没有明显的病理变化, 而右眼不能判定。

显著变化的是: 右侧有相对性传入性瞳孔障碍, 视神经盘变得苍白, 由于视神经组织水肿(色素上皮以上最大穿透力达764 μm(图1))和毛细血管周围视网膜水肿, 其突起明显增加。由于压迫视网膜中央静脉, 静脉直径增大, 沿视神经盘边缘出现病理性迂曲和虚线视网膜内出血(图2, a)。左眼的眼底图像没有显著变化(图2, b)。临床表现明显符合前部缺血性视神经视网膜病变(AION)的诊断, 而主诉眼眶深处的疼痛和眼眶内视神经直径增大不是该疾病的特征, 需要排除缺血性/炎症性球后视网膜病变。

为此, 进行了眼眶多螺旋CT扫描, 证实右眼球后段的视神经增厚达6.7毫米(正常为4.7–6.3毫米), 但在视神经管内没有压迫的迹象, 左眼视神经没有病理变化。两侧的球后组织的体积是对称的, 眼眶的骨壁没有变形。

尽管在糖皮质激素的治疗下, 眼底很快出现了好转, 而且视神经形态参数也发生了变化(OCT数据显示视盘隆起减少到395 μm(见图3)), 但没有获得功能性好转。

6个月后, 右眼的视力仍然是眼前手动。有视神经萎缩的迹象, 特征性的变化表现为苍白、视乳头周的视网膜神经纤维层薄(见图4, a)。

发现患眼的视网膜血管硬化进展迅速。在6个月内, 几乎所有的二阶和三阶动脉都呈银丝和铜丝状, 并且部分保留了血流。应该指出的是, 这只眼的糖尿病视网膜病变的表现几乎完全消失了。

6个月后还进行了OCT血管造影, 发现视乳头旁(见图5)和黄斑区(见图6)的视网膜毛细血管密度明显下降, 灌注减少。继发性视神经萎缩是AION的典型结果。不典型的似乎是视盘凹陷范围扩大, 渐进性的动脉粥样硬化改变和仅一只眼糖尿病视网膜病变的反向发展。对于这一点的解释是可能由于以前的血管意外造成的右眼缺血。

在此期间, 左眼没有明显的变化(见图4, b)。

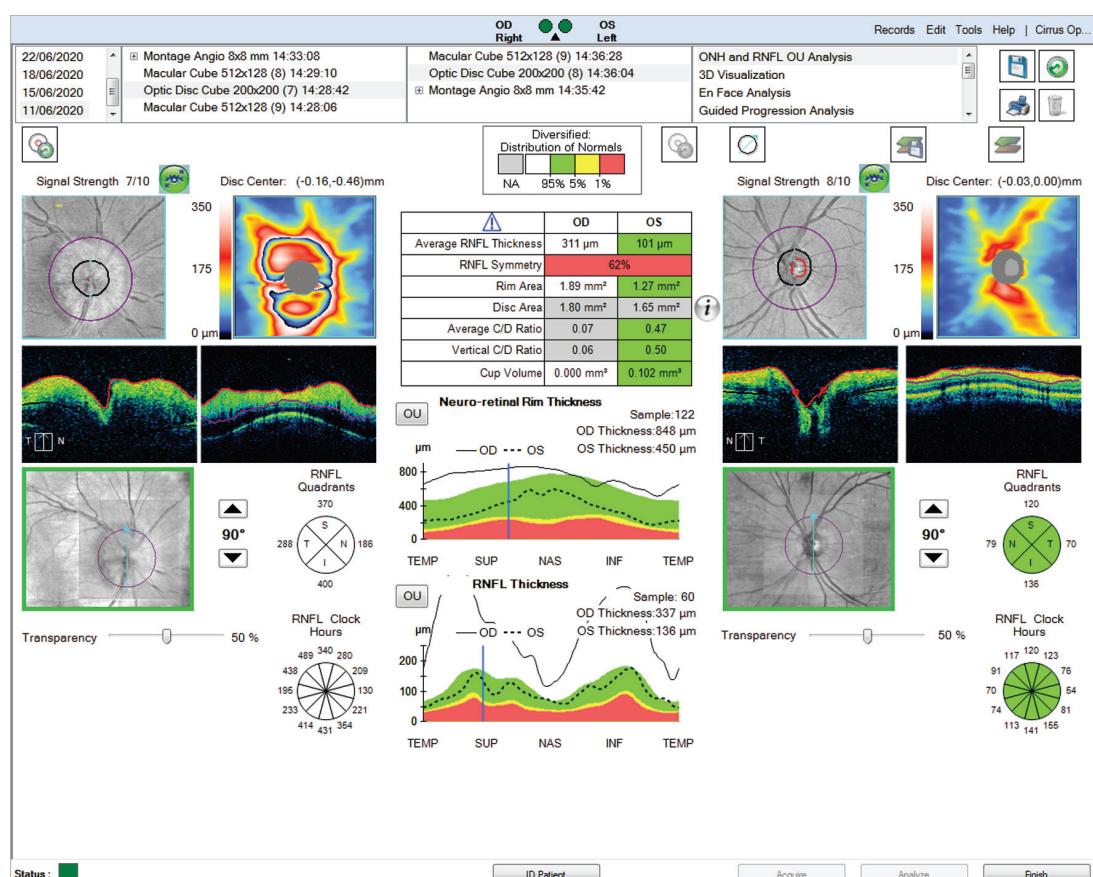


图.1.一位患者在发病后第5天，双眼视盘的光学相干断层扫描数据。右眼视乳头旁视网膜神经纤维周围的厚度明显增加，视神经组织渗透到玻璃体中。左眼视盘的形态参数在年龄标准范围内

**Fig. 1.** OCT of both optic nerve heads, 5 days after first symptoms. There is a significant increase of the retinal nerve fiber layer's thickness in the peripapillary area of the right eye, protruding of the optic nerve tissue into the vitreous. Morphometric indices of the optic nerve head of the left eye - within the expected range for age



图.2.患者发病后第5天的眼底照片。患者的右眼(a)和左眼(b)的眼底。两只眼睛都显示出非增殖性糖尿病视网膜病变：视网膜内出血，单个棉絮斑和固体渗出物。右眼的视盘水肿和苍白，并伴有出血。在左眼，沿鼻上方血管弓有一个被固体渗出物包围的大动脉瘤

**Fig. 2.** Fundus photo, 5 days after first symptoms. Right (a) and left (b) eye fundi status. In both eyes, there are signs of non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy: intraretinal hemorrhages, single cotton-wool spots and hard exudates. On the right eye, optic disc edema and paleness with a hemorrhage are present. On the left eye, along the upper nasal vascular arcade, there is a single macroadenoma surrounded by hard exudates

由于持续性高血糖（血浆葡萄糖20.97毫摩尔/升，糖化血红蛋白12.1%）、高胆固醇血症（胆固醇5.90毫摩尔/升，甘油三酯5.73毫摩尔/升）

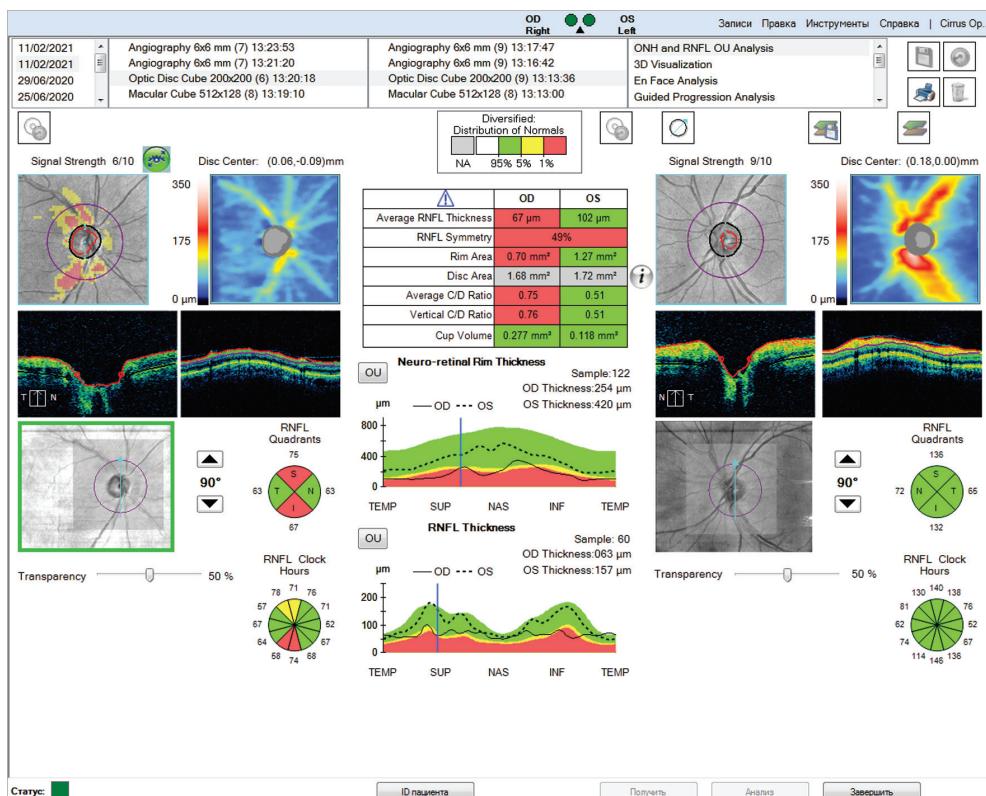
和认知障碍的出现，患者被转到内分泌科和神经科进行检查和治疗。鉴于右眼新生血管并发症的高风险和左眼糖尿病视网膜病变的快速发展，患者仍在观察中，建议每月进行眼科检查。

## 讨论

从诊断和考虑疾病发展的新机制角度看，与COVID 19相关的缺血性视神经病变的临床病例很有意思。

AION的主要局部危险因素是视盘结构的解剖学特征（小尺寸和玻璃膜疣）[24, 25]。在全身性风险因素中，许多代谢和血流动力学异常也是相关的。AH和DM通常被认为是造成视神经循环障碍的原因[26, 27]。AH主要与眼球血管中的灌注压迅速下降有关[28]。这一机制是众所周知的，也是无可争议的。DM在缺血性视神经视网膜病变发病机制中的作用更为复杂。

一项调查血糖水平对发生AION风险影响的临床研究荟萃分析表明，该指标在疾病发展中具



**图.3.** 双眼视盘的光学相干断层扫描数据, 6个月后的检查。右眼视乳头旁视网膜神经纤维层明显变薄, 陷凹直径与视盘直径之比增加到0.7。左眼视盘的形态参数符合年龄标准, 与第一次检查相比没有动态变化

**Fig. 3.** OCT of both optic nerve heads, 6 months after the first examination. The neuroretinal rim thickness and that of the retinal nerve fiber layer in the parapapillary area of the right eye are significantly thinned, cup-to-disc ratio is increased up to 0.7. Morphometric indices of the optic nerve head of the left eye - within the expected range for age, without any dynamic changes when compared to the first examination

有重要意义。这很可能是由于血糖水平升高对许多生化过程的影响, 最终导致氧化应激以及影响内皮细胞和周细胞功能的细胞毒性作用, 从而导致眼部血流自动调节失败[29]。

应该注意的是, 血糖水平升高和急剧降低都会导致眼病糖尿病变化的出现/进展, 并增加急性血管事件的风险。ACCORD研究的结果证明了这一点, 该研究由于接受强化降糖治疗的患者死亡率高而提前终止。

在10–20%的患者中, 由于开始或使用胰岛素治疗有关的血糖水平急剧下降, 导致糖尿病视网膜变化短暂(3–6个月)恶化。在新型冠状病毒感染的情况下, DM患者体内的RAAS失衡[30]会因SARS-CoV 2诱导的ACE 2失调而进一步加剧。这可能导致先前视网膜缺血的出现或进展, 可能增加视神经缺血的风险[31]。鉴于所述患者最初的高血糖水平, 不能排除在重症监护室转入胰岛素治疗后血浆葡萄糖浓度急剧下降的可能性。再加上COVID 19的严重病程, 这可能是糖尿病视网膜病变进展的一个决定性因素。



**图.4.** 第一次检查后6个月患者的眼底照片。患者的右眼(a)和左眼(b)的眼底状态。右眼的视网膜变化和视盘萎缩变化部分消退。二阶和三阶动脉血管上有明显的血管硬化和铜丝状。在左眼, 大动脉瘤消退, 后极部和从下方沿周围视网膜出血增加

**Fig. 4.** Fundus photo, 6 months after the first examination. Right (a) and left (b) eye fundi status. On the right eye, a partial regression of retinal changes, atrophic optic nerve head changes may be noted. Significant angiосclerosis, "copper wire" sign on the 2nd and 3rd range arterioles are present. On the left eye, there is a macroaneurism regression, more retinal hemorrhages in the posterior pole and in the lower periphery

最近的研究表明, 与大多数病毒不同, SARS-CoV 2和它的抗体在脑脊液中几乎检测不到。目前还没有关于其通过血脑屏障渗透的可靠数据。

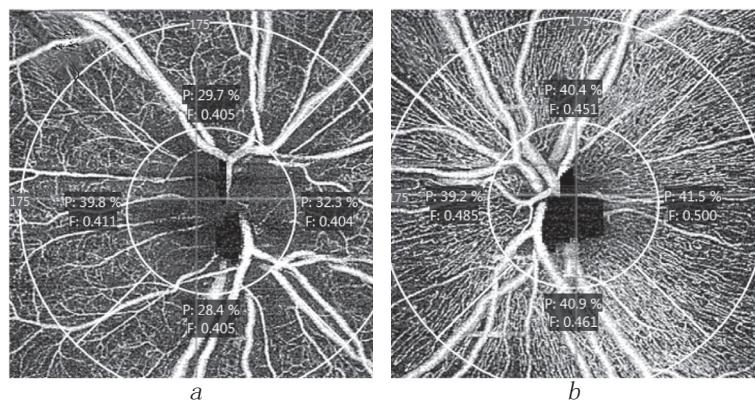


图.5.第一次检查后6个月患者视盘的光学相干断层扫描血管成像数据。右眼(a)和左眼(b)的视盘灌注值。平均灌注密度分别为32.9%和40.5%

**Fig. 5.** AngioOCT of the optic nerve head, 6 months after the first examination. Optic nerve head perfusion indices of the right (a) and left (b) eye. Mean values of perfusion density are 32.9 and 40.5 %, respectively

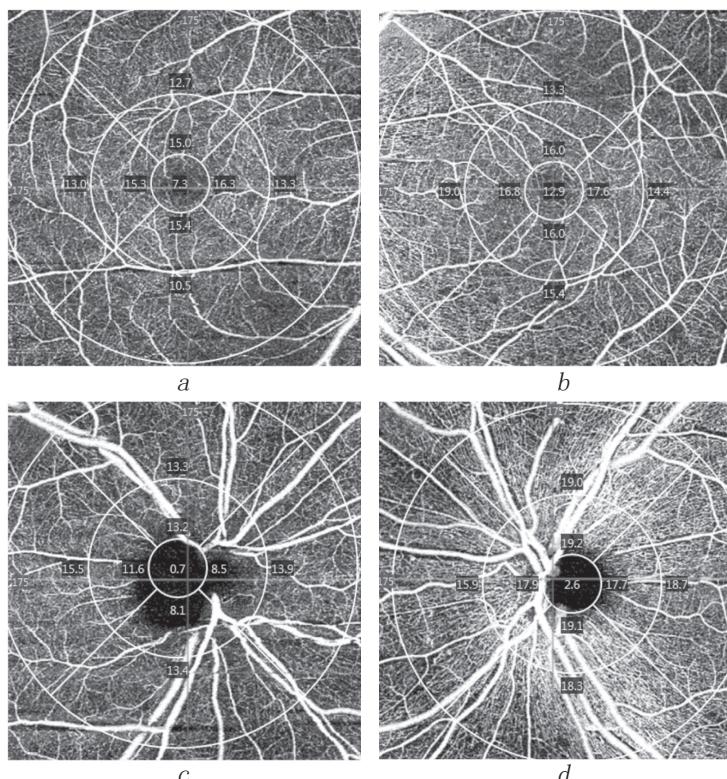


图.6.第一次检查后6个月患者的光学相干断层扫描血管成像数据。右眼(a)和左眼(b)黄斑区浅层血管丛的血管密度值( $\text{mm}/\text{mm}^2$ )，右眼(c)和左眼(d)视乳头旁丛的血管密度值。患侧所有测量区域的血管密度都有下降

**Fig. 6.** AngioOCT of the patient, 6 months after the first examination. Vascular density indices ( $\text{mm}/\text{mm}^2$ ) of the superficial vascular plexus in the macular area of the right (a) and the left (b) eye, and vascular density indices of the parapapillary plexus of the right (c) and the left (d) eye. A decrease in vascular density in all measurement areas on the involved side is noted

然而，不能完全排除病毒的直接嗜神经作用。在死于COVID 19患者的视网膜神经元中，死后检测到SARS-CoV 2 RNA[32]。SARS-CoV 1已经证明了病毒经突触进入中枢神经系统(CNS)，而SARS-CoV 2也被认为是如此[33]。COVID 19患者嗅觉丧失的高发率表明，该病毒会破坏嗅觉粘膜，通过它可以经突触进入CNS的神经元[34]。

另一个有趣且鲜为人知的神经组织损伤和脑血栓栓塞机制是在COVID 19患者中观察到的自身免疫性炎症理论。在COVID 19患者出现神经系统异常的情况下，脑脊液中没有发现白细胞增多、脑脊液细胞增多或其他提示典型炎症过程的迹象。同时，在大多数患者中检测到炎症生化标志物(新蝶呤和 $\beta$ 2-微球蛋白)的水平明显增加，表

明大脑的免疫细胞被激活。此外，众所周知，CNS自身免疫性脱髓鞘疾病与以前的病毒感染有关，包括COVID 19。已有两例感染COVID 19后的患者出现与髓鞘少突胶质细胞糖蛋白(MOG)抗体有关的双侧视神经损害的临床病例报道[35,36]。

迄今为止发表的数据表明，冠状病毒感染中的视网膜和视神经损伤机制可能比我们目前想象的要复杂。

在所描述的临床病例中，一个患有DM、AH、血脂异常和肥胖的患者，尽管没有常见的局部危险因素，但具有发展AION的主要前提条件。病毒性疾病COVID 19的发展导致慢性疾病的失代偿，抢救措施可能导致了血流动力学紊乱，眼部和视神经血管的灌注压力下降。AION的不典型表现可能是

由同时存在的自身免疫性炎症过程解释的。炎症的存在解释了疾病急性期眼球后部的疼痛，视神经眶内部分的肿胀，以及视神经萎缩并形成陷凹，更典型的不是血管性而是炎症后的视神经损害。

COVID 19中AION的发病机制是多方面的，而且是多因素的。低氧血症、低纤维蛋白溶解和高凝状态、血管张力失调和全身性炎症可导致AION和其他视网膜和视神经血管疾病的非典型症状。如AH、DM、血脂异常等合并症也会影响感染本身的严重程度和眼部病变的过程。

当然，COVID 19的眼部损伤机制需要进一步研究和了解。由于目前还没有行之有效的方法来恢复AION后的视觉功能，眼科医生参与感染科的工作可以提供新的知识，降低中度至重度冠状病毒感染患者的视网膜和视神经并发症的风险。

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## AUTHORS' INFO

\***Vadim A. Turgel**, postgraduate student;

address: 6-8 L've Tolstogo str., Saint Petersburg, 197089, Russia;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3049-1974>;

e-mail: zanoza194@gmail.com

**Vladimir A. Antonov** postgraduate student;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5823-8367>;

e-mail: antonov@alborada.fi

**Svetlana N. Tultseva**, MD, Dr. Sci. (Med.), Professor;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9423-6772>;

eLibrary SPIN: 3911-0704; e-mail: tultceva@yandex.ru

**Fedor E. Shadrachev**, MD, Cand. Sci. (Med.);

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7790-9242>;

eLibrary SPIN: 4465-8381; e-mail: shadrachev\_dr@mail.ru

**Niurguyana N. Grigorjeva**, MD, Cand. Sci. (Med.), ophthalmologist;

eLibrary SPIN: 7299-4748; e-mail: grinur@mail.ru

## ОБ АВТОРАХ

\***Вадим Алексеевич Тургель**, аспирант; адрес: Россия,

197089, Санкт-Петербург, ул. Л. Толстого, д. 6-8, корпус 16;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3049-1974>;

e-mail: zanoza194@gmail.com

**Владимир Александрович Антонов**, аспирант;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5823-8367>;

e-mail: antonov@alborada.fi

**Светлана Николаевна Тульцева**, д-р мед. наук, профессор;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9423-6772>;

eLibrary SPIN: 3911-0704; e-mail: tultceva@yandex.ru

**Фёдор Евгеньевич Шадричев**, канд. мед. наук;

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7790-9242>;

eLibrary SPIN: 4465-8381; e-mail: shadrachev\_dr@mail.ru

**Нургюяна Николаевна Григорьева**, канд. мед. наук, врач;

eLibrary SPIN: 7299-4748; e-mail: grinur@mail.ru