

Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus

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Figure 1: Patient with vesicles, erythema and swelling in the distribution of ophthalmic division of trigeminal nerve.

A 37-year-old woman presented with fever and headache for 5 days associated with facial swelling and pain for 3 days. She was diagnosed with diabetes type II for past 3 years and was on irregular treatment. On examination there were multiple vesicles over the left upper face with erythema and swelling (Figure 1). The ophthalmic examination revealed congestion of the conjunctiva with small punctate erosions in the cornea. The patient was diagnosed with Herpes zoster ophthalmicus which

was confirmed by a Tzanck smear. She was started on acyclovir 800mg five times a day along with acyclovir eye ointment and lubricating eye drops and strict glycemic control. The lesions resolved by day 12 and patient has been asymptomatic 2 months of follow up. The disease is characterized by reactivation of dormant, neurotropic, DNA virus called varicella zoster which resides within the ophthalmic division of the trigeminal nerve.