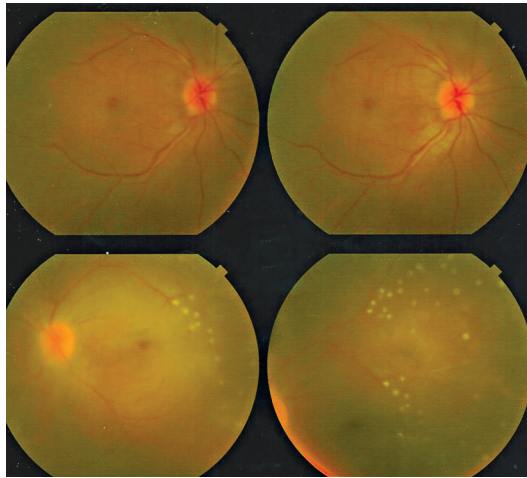


Atypical presentation of ocular syphilis in an individual with AIDS

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Ocular complications are common in acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and occur in 50-75% of patients throughout the course of their illness. Syphilis is the most common bacterial eye infection in these patients and most often presents as uveitis or an optic nerve disease. This condition can manifest as episcleritis, scleritis, dacryoadenitis, anterior uveitis, intermediate uveitis, papillitis, retinal vasculitis, neuroretinitis, or retrobulbar optic neuropathy. The most common symptoms include blurred vision, loss of vision, central scotoma, and bilateral ocular involvement. Although most patients with ocular syphilis do not present with clinical findings, such findings have a high positive predictive value. Patches of creamy, diffuse retinitis with overlying punctate and superficial retinal precipitates have been described as presentations suggestive of ocular syphilis (**Figure A**). This clinical condition may represent the clinician's first opportunity to diagnose human

immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and tends to be more severe in individuals who are not yet receiving antiretroviral therapy.

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Received 8 January 2014

Accepted 3 February 2014