

## CLINICOPATHOLOGIC ANALYSIS OF "IDIOPATHIC" SCLERITIS AND SCLERITIS ASSOCIATED WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS -MINI REVIEW

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Scleritis is a chronic, painful, and potentially blinding inflammatory disease that is characterized by edema and cellular infiltration of the sclera tissues. It can occur as isolated ("idiopathic") or associated with systemic immune-mediated diseases of connective tissue. We present two different cases of scleritis: one case was that of a female patient with diffuse "idiopathic" scleritis, and the other – that of a female patient with nodular scleritis associated with rheumatoid arthritis. Both patients underwent detailed clinical, laboratory, and immune examinations, as well as the pathohistological analysis of the biopsy sample. The first patient had all laboratory tests within normal limits. The pathomorphological substrate of diffuse scleritis showed considerable edema of the episcleral and scleral tissues, the presence of inflammatory infiltrates with abundant lymphoid cells, histiocytes, accompanied by active hyperemia of capillaries with unusual relationships of blood vessels of the sclera and episclera. The second patient had nodular scleritis associated with rheumatoid arthritis. The pathomorphological substrate of sclera showed multiple foci of mononuclear infiltration with the domination of lymphocytes, the inner zone of polymorphonuclears and histiocytes, epithelioid and foreign body type giant cells and the outer zone of lymphocytes and plasma cells. Compared to the normal sclera, the number of inflammatory cells was 10-15 times elevated in scleritis with the domination of lymphocytes and plasma cells.

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**Key words:** scleritis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleromalacia perforans