

Papilledema secondary to meningitis

Category(ies): Neuro-ophthalmology, Retina

Contributor: [Tressa Larson, OD, FAAO](#)

Photographer: Kelly Malloy, OD, FAAO

Increased intracranial pressure can have multiple ocular manifestations. Since the optic nerve is wrapped in the meninges, increased pressure in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) space can result in forward displacement and edema of the optic nerves. Bilateral disc edema should always carry a high suspicion of papilledema.

Papilledema is potentially sight threatening and many of the conditions that produce it are life threatening. Hemorrhages on the optic disc are associated with acute rather than long-standing edema.

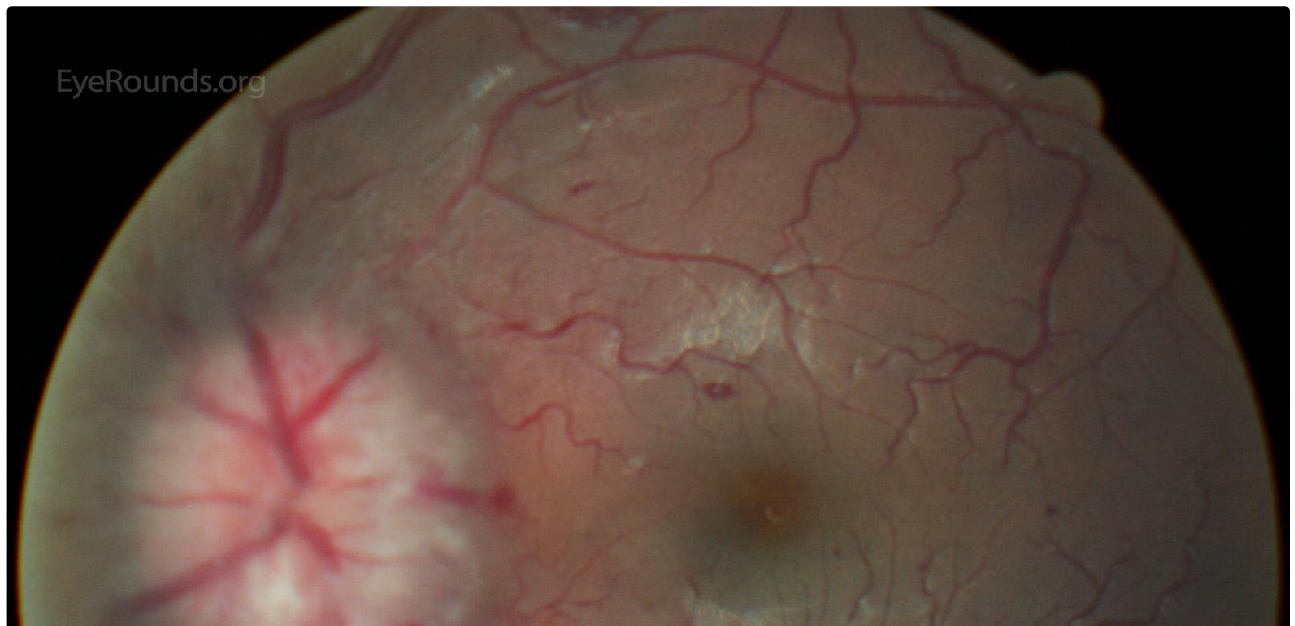
A second ocular sign (this patient's presenting complaint but not shown here) of increased intracranial pressure is sixth nerve palsy. Cranial nerve six has a long path from the pons through the prepontine cistern where it ascends the along the clivus. The nerve is tightly tethered to the meninges at Dorello's canal where it pierces through the clivus to enter the cavernous sinus. A rise in intracranial pressure can stretch cranial nerve six in this location resulting in a nerve palsy. While isolated, unilateral cranial nerve six palsy is more likely to be vascular in origin, bilateral cranial nerve six palsy is highly suspicious for increased intracranial pressure.

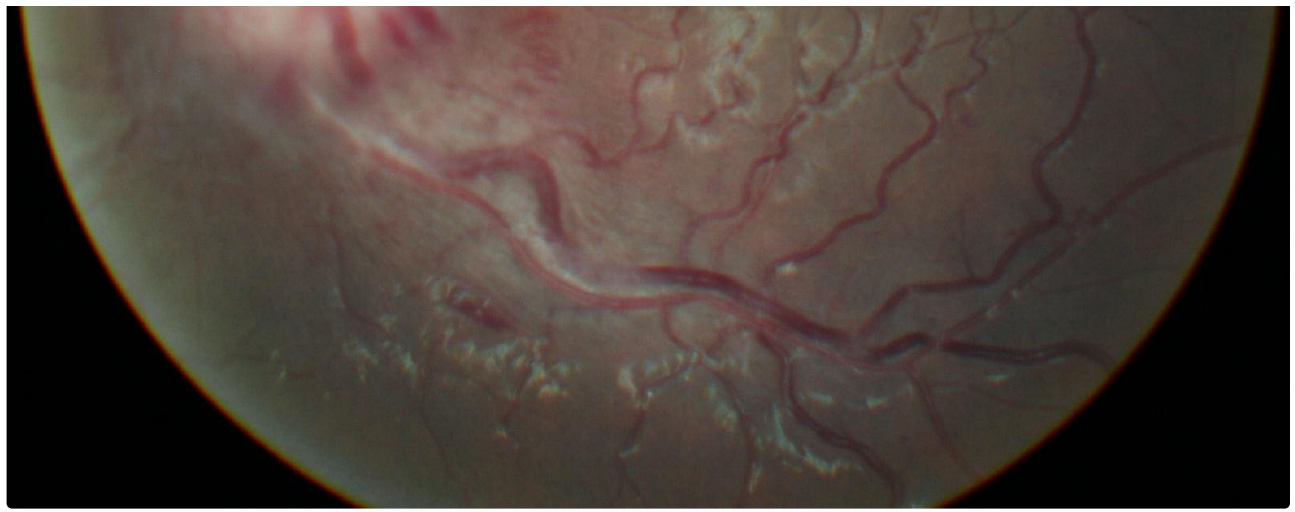




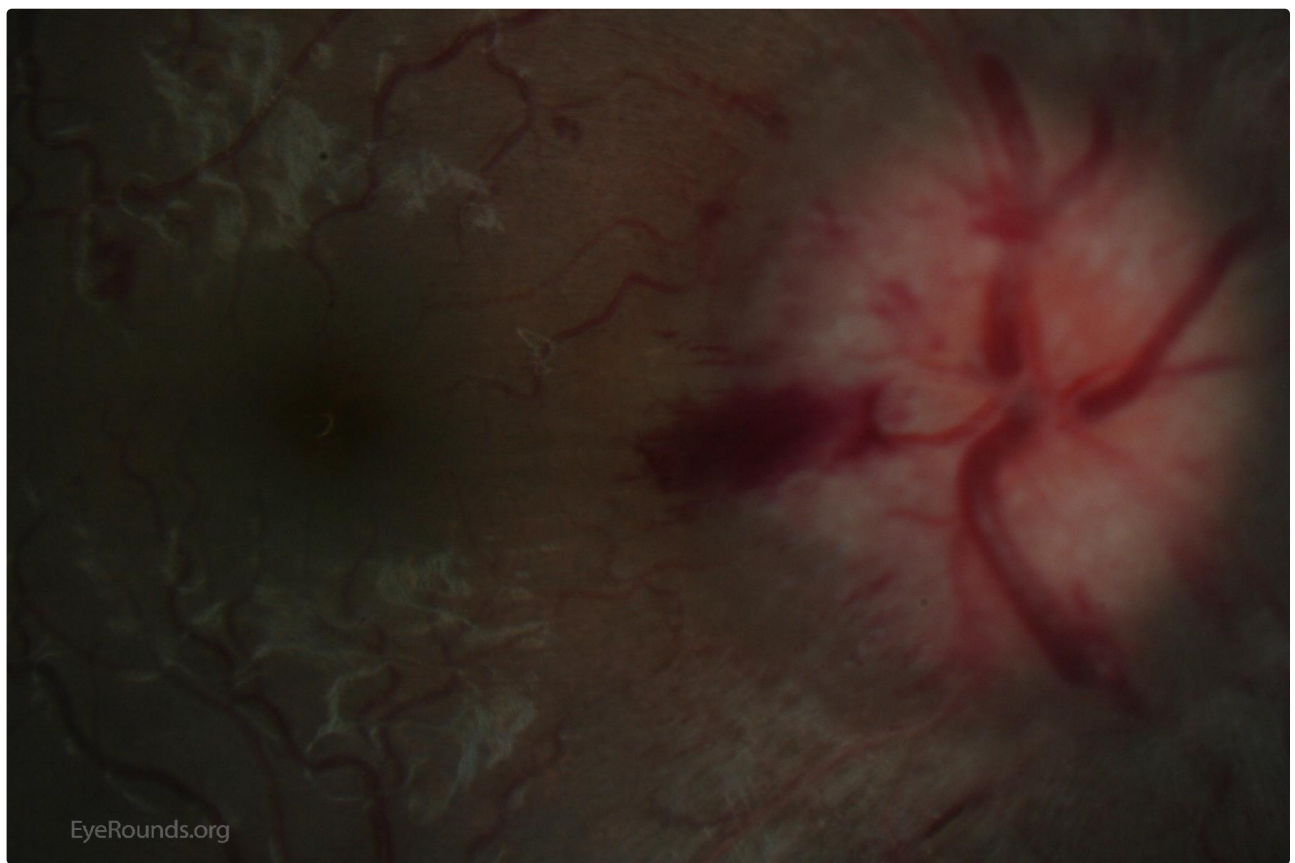
[Enlarge](#)

[Download](#)





[Enlarge](#) [Download](#)



[Enlarge](#) [Download](#)



EyeRounds.org

 Enlarge

 Download

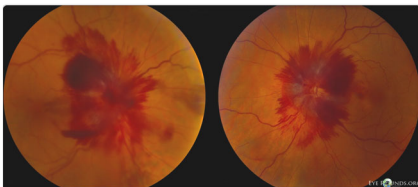
Image Permissions:



Ophthalmic Atlas Images by EyeRounds.org, The University of Iowa are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).



Related Articles



[Related Atlas Entry: Papilledema](#)

Address

University of Iowa
Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College
of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology and
Visual Sciences
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242

[Support Us](#)

Legal

Copyright © 2019 The University of
Iowa. All Rights Reserved
[Report an issue with this page](#)
[Web Privacy Policy](#) |
[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)

Related Links

[Cataract Surgery for Greenhorns](#)
[EyeTransillumination](#)
[Gonioscopy.org](#)
[Iowa Glaucoma Curriculum](#)
[Iowa Wet Lab](#)
[Patient Information](#)
[Stone Rounds](#)
[The Best Hits Bookshelf](#)

EyeRounds Social Media

Follow



Receive notification of new cases,
[sign up here](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Submit a Suggestion](#)