

## **CLINICAL AND IMAGING CHARACTERIZATION OF FOCAL CHOROIDAL EXCAVATIONS**

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**PURPOSE:** The aim of this work is to describe the clinical and imaging characteristics of patients with Focal Choroidal Excavation (FCE).

**METHODS:** This is a retrospective, non-comparative study, consisting of a series of cases of patients with FCE followed up at Centro Hospitalar Universitário de São João. Patients` age at diagnosis, unilaterality, affected macular quadrant, type, size, evolution over time, type of choroid, and associated retinal pathology were evaluated.

**RESULTS:** FCE was identified in 8 patients (7 female and 1 male) and the median age at presentation was 55 years. FCE was identified in an extrafoveal location in all cases, with the inferonasal quadrant being the most frequent location. Morphologically, 6 FCE were classified as “conforming” and 2 as “non-conforming”. The mean largest linear dimension was 1137  $\mu\text{m}$  and the mean sub-FCE choroidal thickness was 142  $\mu\text{m}$ . Concomitant macular pathology was identified in 6 cases (75% cases) - 2 with myopic macular neovascularization (NVM), 2 patients with NVM secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD), 1 patient with AMD, and 1 patient with NVM secondary to FCE.

**CONCLUSION:** This study identified the presence of FCE in patients with or without other retinal pathologies. The association of FCE with NVM is frequent, and its role in its pathophysiology remains unknown. Patients with FCE should be monitored regularly with OCT examination as it is a difficult finding to monitor in fundoscopy and for early detection of NVM.

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** No