

Pediatric Optic Neuritis: What Is New.

Borchert M1, Liu GT, Pineles S, Waldman AT.

Author information

Abstract

Few diseases blur the margins between their childhood and adult-onset varieties as much as optic neuritis. This report will review our state of knowledge of pediatric optic neuritis, as well as its relationship to the latest consensus definitions of neuroinflammatory disease. Current diagnostic and treatment options will be explored, as well as our potential to uncover an understanding of pediatric optic neuritis through systematic prospective studies. The risk of evolving multiple sclerosis is probably less than in adults, but pediatric optic neuritis is more likely to be an initial manifestation of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. Steroids may hasten visual recovery, but they do not change visual outcome except in cases because of neuromyelitis optica. The role of puberty in modifying the presentation and risk associations is unknown. Prospective studies are required to resolve these diagnostic and management issues.