

Clinical presentations, microbiology and management outcomes of culture-proven endogenous endophthalmitis in India

Vivek Pravin Dave, Avinash Pathengay¹, Bhavik Panchal¹, Animesh Jindal¹, Agniv Datta, Savitri Sharma², Rajeev Reddy Pappuru, Joveeta Joseph², Subhadra Jalali, Taraprasad Das¹

Purpose: To report the clinical presentation, microbiology, and management outcome of endogenous endophthalmitis in Indian patients. **Methods:** Retrospective chart review of culture-positive (vitreous/urine/blood) endogenous endophthalmitis cases treated in tertiary eye care facility in India was done. **Results:** The study included 173 eyes of 117 patients. Mean patient age was 25.41 ± 20.46 years (median 24 years). Pre-disposing systemic illness could not be elicited in 79 (67.63%) patients. Commonest predisposing systemic condition in patients where it could be detected ($n = 79$) was pyrexia of unknown origin (25/79 = 32.0%). Following treatment, 45 out of 173 (26.0%) eyes regained vision of $\geq 20/400$. Commonest isolated organism from vitreous was *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (36 eyes, 20.8%) and fungi were isolated in 24 (13.8%) eyes, the commonest being *Candida* spp. (8/24, 33.33%). Favorable functional outcome was seen in 26% eyes and favorable anatomic outcome in 43% eyes. Those with an underlying systemic illness were older ($P = 0.02$), had greater urine culture positivity ($P = 0.003$), lesser vitreous culture positivity (0.001), greater gram negative etiology ($P = 0.0006$), and greater fungal etiology ($P = 0.01$) as compared to those cases without underlying systemic illness. **Conclusion:** Endogenous endophthalmitis in India often presents in young immunocompetent individuals without any underlying systemic illness and with negative blood or urine microbiologic work up. Underlying systemic illness leads to greater gram-negative and fungal etiology. Overall visual outcome is poor inspite of prompt management.

Key words: Endogenous, endophthalmitis, outcomes

Endogenous endophthalmitis (EE) is caused by a hematogenous spread of infection from a systemic focus to the eye. It accounts for 2-15% of all endophthalmitis cases reported in the world.^[1-3] Etiology of EE is multifactorial. Both bacteria and fungi are implicated.^[1,4] While the gram positive cocci (*Streptococcus* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp.) are more often reported from the West, gram-negative bacteria (*Klebsiella* spp.) are more often reported in the South-east Asia.^[5-14] The largest series reported from India is description of 61 cases.^[15] In this study we report 117 cases of endogenous endophthalmitis, currently the largest from India and compare the data with similar large series from different parts of the world.

Methods

Case records of all cases with endogenous endophthalmitis from January 2006 to July 2018 were identified by the institute medical record system and the microbiology laboratory records. All cases presenting with spontaneous onset redness, lid edema, hypopyon, decreased vision, and vitreous exudates were clinically defined as endogenous endophthalmitis. Of

these, culture-positive cases were included in the study. Cases that did not fit into the above inclusion criteria were included. Institutional Review Board approval for the study was taken. Details of history, clinical examination, clinical features at presentation, microbiological evaluation including antibiotic susceptibility report and clinical response to therapy were obtained from the chart review. The essential clinical findings included presenting and final best corrected visual acuity, status of anterior segment, presence/absence of hypopyon, extent of fundal glow and status of the retinal vessels, if visible. Whenever the fundus was not visible by the binocular indirect ophthalmoscope using the highest illumination, B-scan ultrasonography was done to determine the extent and location of vitreous involvement and other posterior segment diseases, such as retinal detachment, choroidal thickening, or choroidal detachment. All patients received a detailed medical examination by an internist and a detailed laboratory work up. The work up included a complete blood picture with differential count, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, blood culture, urine microscopy with culture and a comprehensive clinical examination in all cases. Depending upon the history

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Smt. Kanuri Santhamma Center for Vitreoretinal Diseases, Kallam Anji Reddy Campus, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Telangana, ²Jhaveri Microbiology Center, Kallam Anji Reddy Campus, LV Prasad Eye Institute, ¹Vitreoretina and Uveitis Service, GMR Varalakshmi Campus, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

Correspondence to: Dr. Avinash Pathengay, Vitreoretina and Uveitis Service, GMR Varalakshmi Campus, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. E-mail: avinash@lvpei.org

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and clinical examination leads, specific investigations like X-ray chest, abdominal ultrasound and computerized tomography were done in selected patients.

Intervention

As per the institute protocol, the surgical management of endophthalmitis consisted of pars plana vitrectomy, direct microscopy and culture of undiluted vitreous, antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates, intravitreal antibiotics (vancomycin, 1 mg/0.1 ml + ceftazidime, 2.25 mg/0.1 ml) with or without dexamethasone (400 µg/0.1 ml). The medical treatment also included intensive topical antibiotics (ciprofloxacin 0.3% one hourly) and corticosteroid (prednisolone acetate 1% one hourly) and oral ciprofloxacin (750 mg two times per day) for 7-10 days. Additional procedures such as repeat intravitreal antibiotics or repeat pars plana vitreous lavage depended on the response to treatment and were left to the decision of the treating physicians. In cases with hazy view due to corneal involvement, a vitreous biopsy was performed instead of a vitrectomy procedure.

Surgical technique

Undiluted vitreous was collected at the beginning of the surgery in all cases, using a vitreous cutter. Topical 5% povidone iodine was used to prepare the eye before surgery and then instilled in the cul-de-sac in all cases at the end of surgery. A standard 3-port technique was used employing a vacuum setting of 200-300 mm Hg and a cutter setting of 3000-5000 cps. The cutter was connected to a 2 cc plastic disposable syringe. As the cutter-aspiration was started by the surgeon, simultaneously, the assistant aspirated the vitreous into the 2 cc syringe. Further handling and processing of the sample and the final interpretation was done as per the institute protocol.^[7,8] Vitrectomy was done within 24 hours of presentation, either using a 20 G or 23/25 G system. In the former cases, the conjunctiva and scleral incisions were sutured with 7-0 polyglactin sutures.

Microbiological processing of vitreous, urine and blood

The microbiological processing of vitreous sample included direct microscopy by 0.1% Calcofluor white stain, Gram stain and Giemsa stain. Culture of the vitreous sample was done on 5% sheep blood chocolate agar, 5% sheep blood agar, brain heart infusion broth, thioglycollate broth, Robertson's cooked meat broth, Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) and potato dextrose agar (PDA). All media were incubated at 37°C for one week except SDA and PDA that were incubated at 27°C for two weeks. Blood sample (5-10 ml) was aseptically collected and

inoculated in blood culture bottle (Hi Media, Mumbai, India) and incubated at 37°C for one week. Growth was checked by subculture on blood agar. Measured (1 µl) volume of mid-stream aseptically collected urine was inoculated on blood and MacConkey's agar (within one hour of collection) and incubated at 37°C for 48 hours. Growth of more than 10⁵ cfu/ml was considered significant.

Bacterial and yeast isolates were identified by a combination of conventional microbiological and automated methods such as Vitek 2 compact system, (bioMérieux, France). The bacterial isolates were tested for susceptibility to various antibiotics using the Kirby-Bauer Disc-diffusion method on Mueller Hinton blood agar. The filamentous fungi were identified by culture characteristics and type of sporulation.

Outcome definition

The outcome at the last visit was considered for final analysis. A favorable anatomic outcome was defined as preservation of the globe, absence of hypotony (intraocular pressure ≥5 mm Hg), attached retina and absence of active inflammation. A favorable functional outcome was defined as an attached retina with a best-corrected visual acuity of ≥20/400.

Statistical analysis

The data were arranged on an Excel spread sheet and analyzed using the statistical software MedCalcver 12.2.1.0 (Ostend, Belgium). Percentage confidence intervals were calculated using online statistical calculators (<https://www.allto.co.uk/tools/statistic-calculators>). Odds ratio with appropriate confidence intervals was computed for possible risk variables. A *P* value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Comparison of continuous non-dependent variable with a categorical dependent variable was done using logistic regression. The functional outcome was the dependent factor for the logistic regression.

Results

The study included 173 consecutive eyes of 117 patients (male 55%; female 45%) with culture-proven EE. The mean age at presentation was 25.41 ± 20.46 years (median 24 years). The interval between the start of symptoms and the inciting event was a mean of 10.12 ± 8.8 days (median: 4 days; range: 1 to 24 days). The interval between the start of symptoms and presentation to the clinic was a mean of 13.61 ± 30.2 days (median: 7 days; range 1-90 days). The mean follow up was 20.35 ± 30.5 months (median: 7; range 2 to 131). There were 8 (4.62%) eyes with concurrent corneal infiltrates.

Table 1: Demographic and clinical features of the cases in this series

Total eyes included	n=173
Age	Mean±SD: 25.41±20.46 y; Median: 24 y; Range: 0.1 to 87 y
Interval between inciting event and start of symptoms	Mean: 10.12±8.8 d; Median: 4 d; Range: 1 to 24 days
Interval between the start of symptoms and presentation to the clinic	Mean±SD: 13.61±30.2 d; Median: 7 d; Range 1-90 d
Cases with concurrent corneal infiltrates	n=8 (4.62%)
Favorable vision at presentation (>20/400)	n=4 (2.31%)
Favorable vision at last follow up	n=45 (26%)
Anatomic success at last follow up	n=76 (43.93%)
Mean follow up in months	+ SD: Mean 20.35±30.51 m; Median 7 months

d=Days, m=Months, y=Years

In only 4 (2.31%) eyes, the presenting vision was $\geq 20/400$. Seventy-six (43.9%) eyes registered anatomical success and 46 (26%) eyes registered functional success in this series. The demographic and clinical features of the cases are summarized in Table 1. Nineteen patients were diabetic at presentation but with well-controlled blood sugars (mean fasting blood sugar of 115 mg%; range 90 mg% to 183 mg%, and HbA1c of 6.8; range 6.1 to 7.2 mg %).

Microbiology

The broad distribution of infecting organisms was gram-positive bacteria 48%; gram-negative bacteria 37%; fungi 15%. The commonest organisms in these groups were *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (36 eyes, 20.8% of total; 44.5% of gram-positive cocci group) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (15 eyes, 8.67% of total; 23.4% of gram-negative bacilli group), and *Candida spp.* (8 eyes, 4.62% of total). The various organisms isolated are summarized in Table 2. The internist examination could not reveal an identifiable focus of infection in 117 (67.63%) patients. The foci of infection in the remaining 56 patients were: pyrexia of unknown origin (10.4%), post solid organ surgery (2.9%), complicated abortion (2.4%), and cellulitis (2.4%) [Table 3]. In gram-positive bacterial cases, antimicrobial susceptibility pattern was chloramphenicol (98.48%), vancomycin (98.38%) > ofloxacin (94.11%) > moxifloxacin (94%) and ciprofloxacin (91.52%). In gram-negative organisms, the antimicrobial susceptibility pattern was imipenem (86.95%) > ciprofloxacin (79.36%) > ofloxacin (78.12%) > amikacin (60%), and ceftazidime (54.38%) [Table 4].

Primary intervention

Primary vitreous tap alone was done in 58 eyes and 39 eyes underwent a pars plana vitrectomy at a later date. Primary vitrectomy was done in 115 eyes. All eyes received intravitreal vancomycin with ceftazidime in the primary intervention. Additionally, 9 eyes received intravitreal amphotericin B and 3 eyes received intravitreal voriconazole at the primary intervention due to high suspicion of fungal infection.

Secondary intervention

The treating physician decided the type and timing of secondary intervention. There were 620 repeat interventions—543 repeat intravitreal injection and 77 repeat vitreous surgery (lavage/vitrectomy). This accounted to mean of 3.6 repeat intervention—mean 3.1 repeat intravitreal injection and mean 0.4 repeat vitreous surgery. The intravitreal injection was repeated more often in bacterial infection (482 times in 149 bacterial infection eyes = 3.2 times; 61 times in 24 fungal infection eyes = 2.5 times) and vitreous surgery was more often repeated in fungal infection (49 times in 24 fungal infection eyes = 2.0 times; 28 times in 149 bacterial infection eyes = 0.2 times). The intravitreal injections in fungal infection were repeated every 48 hours for amphotericin B and every 24 hours for voriconazole as decided by the treating physicians.^[12,13] The mean time interval between presentation and the first intravitreal antifungal antibiotic injection was 9.27 ± 9.03 days (Median 7 days). The cumulated intervention in these 173 eyes included 683 intravitreal injections, 58 taps, 154 vitrectomies, and 38 vitreous lavages [Chart 1] mean 3.94 intravitreal injections/eye, and mean 1.44 other surgical procedures/eye.

Outcome

Overall, a favorable anatomic outcome was seen in 76 eyes (43.93%) and a favorable functional outcome was seen in

Table 2: Table showing the various micro -organisms isolated and cultured

	Organism	n (%) of total
Gram-positive organism (n=83)	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	37 (44.57%)
	<i>Streptococcus spp</i>	9 (10.84%)
	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	8 (9.63%)
	<i>Staphylococcus spp</i>	7 (8.43%)
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	6 (7.22%)
	<i>Corynebacterium spp</i>	4 (4.81%)
	Unidentified gram-positive bacteria	4 (4.81%)
	<i>Bacillus spp</i>	3 (3.61%)
	<i>Enterococcus spp</i>	2 (2.4%)
	<i>Micrococcus spp</i>	1 (1.2%)
	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	1 (1.2%)
	<i>Kocuria spp</i>	1 (1.2%)
	Gram negative organisms (n=64)	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
<i>Escherichia coli</i>		8 (12.5%)
<i>Hemophilus influenzae</i>		7 (10.93%)
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>		6 (9.37%)
Non-fermenting gram-negative bacilli		6 (9.37%)
<i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i>		5 (7.81%)
<i>Burkholderia cepacia</i>		3 (4.68%)
<i>Enterobacter spp</i>		3 (4.68%)
<i>Vibrio spp</i>		2 (3.13%)
<i>Alcaligenes spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Klebsiella spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Rhizobium spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Myroides spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Pantoea spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Aeromonas spp</i>		1 (1.56%)
<i>Salmonella spp</i>	1 (1.56%)	
<i>Acenitobacter spp</i>	1 (1.56%)	
<i>Citrobacter spp</i>	1 (1.56%)	
Fungi (n=24)	<i>Candida spp</i>	8 (33.33%)
	<i>Aspergillus spp</i>	7 (29.16%)
	<i>Fusarium spp</i>	3 (12.5%)
	Unidentified hyaline fungus	2 (8.33%)
	<i>Scedosporium spp</i>	1 (4.16%)
	<i>Lasiodiplodia spp</i>	1 (4.16%)
	<i>Curvularia spp</i>	1 (4.16%)
Actinomycetes (n=2)	<i>Stephanoascus ciferrii</i>	1 (4.16%)
	<i>Nocardia</i>	2 (100%)

45 eyes (26.01%). Multiple factors were assessed to look for those that affected the final outcome but only the type of intervention done primarily had a bearing on the final functional outcome. The odds of a favorable functional outcome when primary PPV was done instead of primary tap were 2.28 (95% Confidence Interval, CI: 1.06 to 4.88, $P = 0.03$). Adverse outcomes seen at the last visit were phthisis bulbi in 66 (38.2%) eyes, recurrent retinal detachment in 19 (10.9%) eyes and hypotony in 12 (6.9%) eyes. Overall, 50 (29%) eyes had no perception of light, 41 (23.7%) eyes had perception to hand motions vision, 45 (52%) eyes had

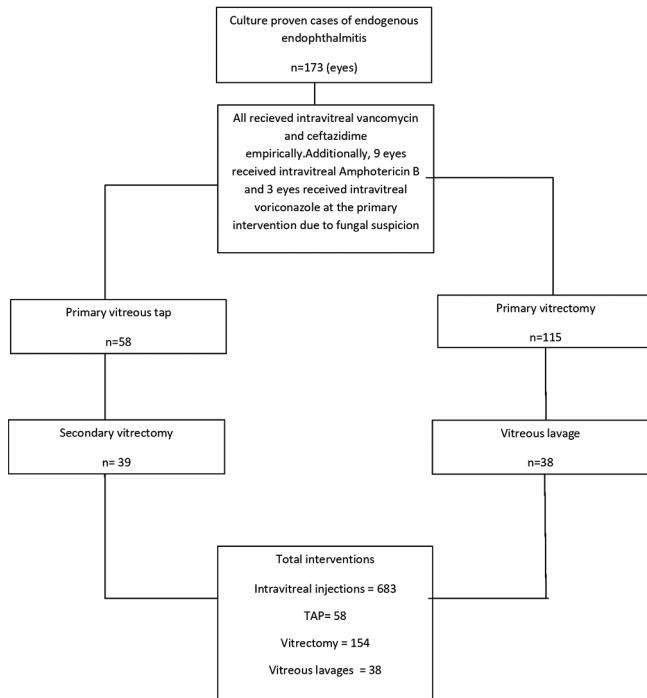


Chart 1: Summary of management

≥20/400 to 20/40 vision, and 19 (11%) eyes had ≥20/40 vision at the last examination visit. Certain differences were noted when those having underlying systemic illness were compared with those having no underlying systemic illness [Table 5]. Lens status was as follows: 41% clear, 42% cataractous, 5% aphakic, 12% pseudophakic. Those with an underlying systemic illness were older ($P = 0.02$), had greater urine culture positivity ($P = 0.003$), lesser vitreous culture positivity (0.001), greater gram negative etiology ($P = 0.0006$), and greater fungal etiology ($P = 0.01$) as compared to those cases without underlying systemic illness.

Discussion

The current communication describes the presentation, microbiology, management and outcome of culture-proven endogenous endophthalmitis patients treated at our institute. We compared this data with other recently reported largest series from south-east Asia^[14] ($n = 143$), from India^[15] ($n = 61$), and from the USA^[16] ($n = 34$) [Table 6]. The following were the salient observations in the current series compared to other series:^[14-16] (1) poor detection of an underlying systemic illness (32.3% in this series vs 75%, 53.4%, 97% respectively reported elsewhere^[14-16]), (2) younger age at presentation (mean 25.4 years in this series vs 52.6 years, 34.6 years and 63.3 years respectively^[14-16]), (3) lesser systemic symptoms (23.7% in this series vs 70%, 37.9% and 67.6% respectively^[14-16]), (4) poor blood culture positivity (0.57% in this series vs 42%, 5.8% and 33.3% respectively^[14-16]), (5) lesser urine culture positivity (6.3% in this series vs 41.3%, 11.6% and 25.9% respectively,^[14-16] (6) high vitreous culture positivity (93.06% in this series vs 22.3%, 47.05% and 70.58% respectively^[14-16]), (7) lower fungal infection (15% in this series vs 19.5% and 41.17% respectively^[14-16]), and (8) higher rate of vitreous surgery (89% in this series vs 51.4%, 62.3% and 61.7% respectively^[14-16]).

The important features in EE are systemic factors, age, tissue fluid (blood and urine) culture, and the infecting organism.

Table 3: Summary of various systemic foci of infection determined in this series

Predisposing illness	n (%)
None	117 (67.63)
Medical conditions	
Thrombocytosis	4 (2.3)
HIV	3 (1.7)
Multiorgan failure	1 (0.6)
Liver cirrhosis	2 (1.2)
Typhoid fever	3 (1.7)
Dialysis	1 (0.6)
Urinary tract infection	2 (1.2)
Pyrexia of unknown origin	18 (10.4)
Intravenous fluid injection alone	7 (4)
Cellulitis	4 (2.4)
Surgical conditions	
Post solid organ surgery	5 (2.9)
Post-organ transplantation	2 (1.2)
Complicated abortion	4 (2.4)

Table 4: Antimicrobial susceptibilities of various organisms tested

	Antibiotic	Isolates tested	Susceptibility
Gram-positive organisms (n=83)	Amikacin	58	50%
	Cefazolin	68	67.64%
	Chloramphenicol	66	98.48%
	Ciprofloxacin	59	91.52%
	Gatifloxacin	62	93.54%
	Gentamicin	22	77.27%
	Moxifloxacin	50	94%
	Ofloxacin	68	94.11%
Gram-negative organisms (n=64)	Vancomycin	62	98.38%
	Amikacin	60	60%
	Ceftazidime	57	54.38%
	Chloramphenicol	64	73.43%
	Ciprofloxacin	63	79.36%
	Gatifloxacin	61	77.04%
	Imipenem	23	86.95%
Ofloxacin	64	78.12%	
Moxifloxacin	49	73.46%	

Systemic illness preceding and probably leading to endogenous endophthalmitis have been reported from various regions of the world. It includes indwelling urinary or intravenous catheters or systemic immunosuppression reported from the West,^[2,4,17] and uncontrolled diabetes mellitus and hepato-biliary diseases reported from the South-east Asia.^[18-20] While there are reports of endogenous endophthalmitis in neonates,^[21,22] most patients in the world present in the fifth-sixth decade of life.^[17-20] Endogenous endophthalmitis secondary to *Niesseria* spp. reported in younger health patients could be an exception.^[2,23,24]

In all probability debilitating conditions like chronic immune-compromising illnesses (diabetes mellitus,

Table 5: Comparison of presentations and results of cases with and without underlying systemic illness

	No systemic illness	Underlying systemic illness	P	95% C.I.
Number of eyes	117	56		
Male gender (%)	64 (54.7%)	32 (57.1%)	0.76	
Mean age (years)	23.15±19.84 Median 20	30.14±24.09 Median 29	0.02	1-14
Blood culture positivity (%)	0	1 (1.78%)	0.14	
Urine culture positivity (%)	3 (2.56%)	8 (14.28%)	0.003	3.4%-23.29%
Vitreous culture positivity (%)	114 (97.43%)	47 (83.92%)	0.001	4.75%-25.36%
Gram-negative etiology (%)	33 (28.2%)	31 (55.35%)	0.0006	11.52%-41.44%
Fungal etiology (%)	11 (9.4%)	13 (23.21%)	0.01	2.52%-27%
Vitrectomy done (%)	78 (67.2%)	36 (64.3%)	0.7	
Favorable functional outcome (%)	27 (23.07%)	18 (32.14)	0.2	
Favorable anatomic outcome (%)	54 (46.15%)	22 (39.28%)	0.39	
Rate of evisceration or enucleation (%)	2 (1.7%)	7 (12.5%)	0.002	3.16%-21.99%

Table 6: Comparison of features of EE in the current series with previous large literature around the world

	Current series	Muda R <i>et al.</i> (Malaysia/South-east Asia)	P and 95% C.I.	Ratra <i>et al.</i> (India/Asia)	P and 95% C.I.	Binder <i>et al.</i> (USA/North America)	P and 95% C.I.
n	173	143		61		34	
Males (%)	96 (55.5)	59 (49.2)	0.26	36 (62.1)	0.37	19 (55.5)	0.98
Mean age (years)	25.41±20.46	52.6±15.1	<0.0001, -31.24- -23.14	34.6±14.9	0.002, -14.81- -3.56	63.3	-
Identification of primary source of infection (%)	56 (32.37)	90 (75)	<0.0001, 32.04%- 51.75%	31 (53.4)	0.003, 6.69%- 34.64%	33 (97)	<0.0001, 50.66%- 71.67%
Systemic symptoms identified (%)	41 (23.7)	84 (70)	<0.0001 35.79%- 55.27%	22 (37.9)	0.03, 1.14%- 27.99%	23 (67.64)	<0.0001, 25.78%- 58.34%
Complaints of blurry vision (%)	161 (93)	106 (74)	<0.0001, 10.89%- 27.23%	60 (98.4)	0.11	31 (92.6)	0.93
Blood culture positivity (%)	1 (0.57)	50 (42)	<0.0001, 33.22%- 49.63%	2 (5.88)	0.02, 0.3%- 18.52%	9 (33.33)	<0.0001, 19.08%- 49.57%
Urine culture positivity (%)	11 (6.35)	19 (41.3)	<0.0001, 25.91%- 43.6%	4 (11.6)	0.88	7 (25.9)	0.001, 5.97%- 38.5%
Vitreous culture positivity (%)	161 (93.06)	27 (22.3)	<0.0001, 61.79%- 77.42%	16 (47.05)	<0.0001, 29.11%- 69.88%	24 (70.58)	0.0001, 9.01%- 39.49%
Gram-negative etiology (%)	64 (37)	66 (80.8)	<0.0001, 33.11%- 52.36%	20 (58.82)	0.01, 3.64%- 38.13%	4 (11.76)	0.004, 8.88%- 35.49%
Fungal etiology (%)	24 (15)	16 (19.5)	0.3	5 (14.7)	0.96	14 (41.17)	0.0004, 10.16%- 43.38%
Vitrectomy done (%)	154 (89)	73 (51.4)	<0.0001, 27.83%- 46.58%	38 (62.3)	<0.0001, 14.31%- 39.82%	21 (61.7)	0.0001, 14.31%- 39.82%
Favorable functional outcome (%)	45 (26.01)	100 (73)	<0.0001, 28.71%- 48.76%	18 (29.5)	0.59	12 (35.29)	0.26
Favorable anatomic outcome (%)	76 (43.93)	No information	-	33 (54.09)	0.17		
Rate of evisceration or enucleation (%)	9 (5.2)	6 (4.19)	0.67	12 (19.7)	0.0007, 5.33%- 26.39%	4 (11.76)	0.15

renal failure), indwelling or long-term intravenous catheters, immunosuppressive diseases and therapy (malignancies, human immunodeficiency virus infection or HIV, chemotherapeutic agents), recent invasive surgery, endocarditis, gastrointestinal procedures, hepatobiliary tract infections, and intravenous drug abuse account for higher fungus and gram-negative infections. That the patients in this series were younger, immunocompetent, and without

detectable systemic illness despite extensive work up explains more of bacterial infection and gram-positive bacterial infection. Even then, the visual outcome in the current study was poor. We suspect it was related to relatively more virulent infection in each group of microorganism—*Streptococcus* spp. in gram positive bacteria,^[23-26] *Pseudomonas* spp. in gram negative bacteria^[27], and *Aspergillus* spp in fungi.^[28] The current study is in-sync with previous reports suggesting

the possibility of endogenous endophthalmitis in otherwise healthy non-immunocompromised patients.^(29,30) The proposed hypothesis is a possible usage of contaminated intravenous infusion set for a past illness which the patient may not necessarily elicit a history for. Such infusions especially when administered in indigenous rural settings were potential risk factors as per the reports. As these patients are largely not systemically sick, this could be a possible reason for low pathogens in the systemic circulation and resultant negative culture. Higher rate of vitreous surgery noted, may be dependent on surgeon's preference as few surgeons may be aggressive in the choice of modality. In view of this being a retrospective study this limitation may lead to analysis bias, since the treating doctor was variable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, endogenous endophthalmitis in the Indian subcontinent presents a unique clinicodemographic profile. Most patients are young and immunocompetent without any underlying systemic focus of infection. Blood and urine culture could be negative and vitreous is the commonest sample to test positive for the infectious agent. The anatomic and visual outcomes are poor though an early treatment, particularly early vitrectomy is more useful.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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