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**Optic neuritis in western Nepal****Bikram Bahadur Thapa and Lekhnath Baral**

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**Background & Objective:** Optic neuritis is a common cause of sudden visual loss. The objective was to report the clinical features, demographic pattern and response to treatment in patients with optic neuritis in western Nepal.

**Materials & Method:** The hospital data of patients with idiopathic optic neuritis admitted to the Department of Ophthalmology in a tertiary level center in mid-western Nepal between January 2017 to November 2017 were retrospectively analyzed. The parameters studied were demographic pattern, clinical features, visual acuity and MRI findings.

**Result:** 16 patients (20 eyes) were found to have optic neuritis (Papillitis in 13 and Retrobulbar optic neuritis in 7 eyes). The male to female ratio was 1:1.29. The mean age of the patients was  $27.63 \pm 12.48$  years (95% CI=21.88-34.00). The most common modes of presentation were loss of visual acuity and color vision defect. One patient had features suggestive of multiple sclerosis at the presentation proved by MRI. Vision improved in all eyes at discharge from the hospital. Visual outcome was rewarding to pulse steroid therapy even in eyes with no perception of light.

**Conclusion:** Response to pulse Methylprednisolone therapy is good in patients of optic neuritis even in late presentation. Demographic and clinical features of our patients were different from those reported from the eastern part of country.

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