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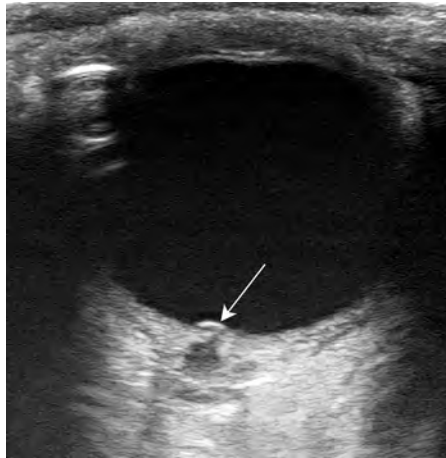
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Figure 1. Ultrasound demonstrating bulging of the optic disk (arrow).



Figure 2. Optic nerve measurement with a diameter of 6.3 mm (arrow); the ill-defined borders suggest inflammation.



Figure 3. Enhancement of the left infraorbital optic nerve (arrow).

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A healthy 39-year-old man presented to the emergency department with 2 days of nontraumatic severe left eye pain and progressive visual loss to the point of blindness. Upon physical examination, the patient reported only flashes of light in the left eye, with sluggish pupillary response and painful extraocular movements. The result of slit lamp examination was unremarkable, and ocular pressures were normal. The result of right eye examination was unremarkable. An emergency physician conducted point-of-care ocular ultrasound, demonstrating evidence of papilledema and optic nerve inflammation (Figures 1 and 2).

For the diagnosis and teaching points, see page e10.

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*(continued from p. e9)***DIAGNOSIS:**

Optic neuritis. Magnetic resonance imaging demonstrated optic neuritis ([Figure 3](#)) along with innumerable hyperintense lesions, consistent with demyelinating disease. Ultrasound can assist in the diagnosis of a wide variety of ocular pathologies.¹⁻³ Bulging of the optic disk and an increased optic nerve diameter in patients with optic neuritis will likely be unilateral, whereas bilateral changes indicate an increased intracranial pressure.

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