Background: To describe neuro-ophthalmic disorders occurring in cartoon characters.

Purpose: The incidence of neuro-ophthalmic disorders in cartoon characters is unknown.

Methods: Retrospective review of patients attending the neuro-ophthalmic clinic of Moorfields in 2009. Records of 2-dimensional patients were selected for review.

Conclusions: Three cartoon characters were identified. The first was a case of bilateral ptosis in a patient suffering from hypersomnolence and achondroplasia. He worked as a miner and sang in a male voice choir. Syndactyly of the third and fourth digits was noted. There was frontalis overaction and reduced palpebral apertures but normal levator function. A diagnosis of bilateral levator disinsertion was made. The second case attended with unilateral proptosis secondary to attempted strangulation. He was a safety inspector in a nuclear power plant. Examination revealed a yellow skin discoloration and syndactyly. There was marked proptosis of the right eye which worsened with valsalva. Imaging revealed orbital varices and a crayon impacted in the left frontal lobe (considered incidental finding). The third patient was a child referred from his optometrist because of severely limited peripheral visual fields. Chiasmal compression due to craniopharyngioma was suspected. On examination the child was small for age and wore a bright orange “hoodie” style garment. Removal of the garment resulted in immediate expansion of his visual fields. Tragically, despite this curative procedure, he was run over by an ambulance as he left the hospital. Neuro-ophthalmic disorders in cartoon characters do occur but are rare in clinical practice.

Citations: