

Effects of Bevacizumab on Diabetic Macular Edema in Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy

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Advantages:

The non-selective anti vascular endothelial growth factor antibody (VEGF) bevacizumab (Avastin) has been used for the treatment of diabetic macular edema with promising short-term results.

Methods:

We investigated the effect of anti-VEGF therapy in a series of 30 consecutive patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy and persistent macular edema who received intravitreal bevacizumab (Avastin) 1.25 mg in combination with scatter argon laser photocoagulation at the Ophthalmology Department „Kasindo“ in Clinical Centre Eastern Sarajevo, E. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Effectiveness / Safety:

Visual acuity improved from 0.3+/-0.1 to 0.5+/-0.2. Macular edema seemed to resolve significantly. Stable and improved perfusion was noted on fluorescein angiograms 6 weeks after the first intravitreal application. Additional focal laser photocoagulation was applied in 18 patients. At the end of follow-up (6 months) visual acuity and pathomorphological retinal findings had remained stable. Only one patient showed vitreous hemorrhage 2 months after anti-VEGF therapy due to a contraction of vitreoretinal neovascular membranes. Conclusion: Future perspectives in diabetic retinopathy treated with anti-VEGF are presumably based on its positive effect on retinal neovascularizations as well as on diabetic macular edema.