

Analysis of rate of change in macular thickness in combination photodynamic therapy and bevacizumab treatment for exudative age-related macular degeneration (the VIA study)

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Advantages:

To obtain a greater improvement after treatment of choroidal neovascularization (CNV) due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Methods:

Prospective, randomized, double masked, controlled, interventional study. Thirty five eyes (35 patients) presenting with CNV from AMD were randomly enrolled in 3 groups: intravitreal bevacizumab in association with PDT at 300 mW/mm² light dose (LFPDT+B), in association with PDT at 150 mW/mm² light dose (VLPDT+B), and in association with sham (B). Study endpoints included number of treatments required over six months, visual acuity, central foveal thickness (CFT), foveal volume (FV).

Effectiveness / Safety:

Within all treatment groups, the anatomic improvement was significant (at month-1 in LFPDT+B group CFT -45%, FV -46.6%, p 0.001; in VLPDT+B group CFT -27%, FV-27.3%, p=0.001; in B group CFT -19.5%, FV - 20.8%, p=0.05) and tended to remain stable during follow up. Anatomic improvement was significantly faster, greater, and sustained in the LFPDT+B group, compared to the B group.

Take home message:

Combination bevacizumab and reduced light dose PDT appears to result in anatomic improvement that is greater and faster than bevacizumab monotherapy, in a dose-dependent fashion.