

Encouraging results of photodynamic therapy with verteporfin in a clinical patient material of age-related macular degeneration and choroidal neovascularization

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Purpose:

To investigate the effects of photodynamic therapy (PDT) on sub- and juxtafoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) in age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in a clinical setting compared to the results of the TAP and VIP studies.

Methods:

PDT with verteporfin was performed according to standard procedures. The survey included 2 main groups: 100 consecutive patients with subfoveal CNV and 30 patients with juxtafoveal CNV. In both groups, approximately 60% had a predominantly classic lesion, approximately 30% had an occult-only lesion and only a few patients had a minimally classic lesion. The lesions were small with a lesion size equal to or less than 3 MPS (Macular Photocoagulation Study) disc diameters in 58% of subfoveal lesions and 90% of juxtafoveal lesions.

Results:

Visual acuity remained stable or increased by 3 lines or more (ETDRS) in 61% in the subfoveal group and in 63% in the juxtafoveal group. At 12 months, 77% of the patients in the subfoveal group and 80% in the juxtafoveal group showed no leakage after 2.9 (SD 0.9) and 3.3 (SD 0.9) treatments, respectively. There was a clear correlation between duration of symptoms and size of the lesion at baseline, as well as between lesion size at baseline and vision loss at the 12 month follow up.

Conclusion:

Visual outcomes were similar to those of the TAP and VIP studies but a higher proportion of eyes showed no leakage at 12 months, 77% in our study compared to 27% and 26% in the TAP and VIP studies, respectively.

Take-home message:

Results of PDT treatment in AMD are optimised if treatment is initiated while the lesion is still small.