

## SYMPOSIUM: ARMD SURGICAL APPROACH

Moderators: Klaus Lucke, Karl Ulrich Bartz-Schmidt, Frank Koch, Sven Crafoord

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### **Surgical extraction of choroidal neovascular membranes (CNVM)**

*Author: Ziya Kapran, Tugrul Altan, Mehmet Çakır, Nur Acar, Yaprak B. Ünver, Aslı Utine, Zerrin Bayraktar*

#### **Purpose:**

Evaluation of the results of surgical extraction of the choroidal neovascular membranes (CNVM).

#### **Methods:**

Four eyes of 4 patients who underwent surgical extraction of CNVM between July 2002 and July 2003 were retrospectively evaluated. Complications, visual prognosis, and recurrence rate were recorded.

#### **Results:**

The etiology of the CNVM was age related macular degeneration (ARMD) in 1 patient, idiopathic in 2 patients and angioid streaks in 1 patient. All membranes were predominantly classic. Location of the membranes were juxtafoveal in 2, extrafoveal in 1 and all were nasal to the center of the fovea. In 1 patient with ARMD membrane was subfoveal. Lesion size was between 1000-4500 microns. Pars plana vitrectomy, posterior hyaloid peeling, small retinotomy, CNVM extraction with fluid sulfur hexafluoride exchange was performed in all eyes. Patients were followed-up for 12,10±10,28 months. Preoperatively BCVA was between 0,05 – 0,4 Snellen lines and postoperatively it was between 0,02 – 0,8 Snellen lines. BCVA increased in 3 eyes postoperatively and decreased in 1 eye. In one eye with angioid streaks recurrence of CNVM was occurred at the foveal edge of the original membrane and photodynamic therapy with verteporfin was applied. In the remaining 3 eyes no recurrence of CNVM occurred postoperatively.

#### **Conclusion:**

Surgical removal of subfoveal CNVM could be a useful option in selected cases.

#### **Take-home message:**

Surgical removal of CNVM may be an alternative to other therapies in selected cases .