

Systemic Avastin Therapy for Neovascular Age Related Macular Degeneration

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PURPOSE

To evaluate the short term safety of systemic bevacizumab (Avastin) and its effects on visual acuity and subfoveal choroidal neovascularization in patients with neovascular age related macular degeneration.

METHODS

Open label, single center, uncontrolled clinical study. Nine(9) patients participants have age related macular degeneration with subfoveal CNV and bestcorrected VA of 20/40-20/400. The patients were treated at baseline with infusion of Avastin (5mg/kg), following of 2 additional doses given at 2 week intervals. Ophthalmologic evaluations included protocol VA measurements and ocular examination, along with OCT imaging and fluorescein angiography.

RESULTS

In the study eyes, significant increases in VA were evident within 1 week of treatment, and by 12 weeks, the median and mean VA letter scores increased by 8 letters ($P=0.01$) and 12 letters ($P=0.08$) respectively. The median and mean central retinal thickness measurements decreased by 150 μm and 180 μm respectively. In all study eyes, angiography revealed a marked reduction or an absence of leakage from CNV. There were no serious ocular or systemic adverse events identified.

CONCLUSION

Avastin therapy was well tolerated with an improvement in VA, OCT, and angiographic outcomes. Although these preliminary results are promising, a randomized controlled clinical trial is necessary before concluding that systemic Avastin therapy is safe and effective for patients with neovascular AMD.

* Financial interest disclosed