

Combination Therapy of Photodynamic Therapy with Verteporfin and Intravitreal Pegaptanib in the Management of Exudative ARMD

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PURPOSE

To examine outcomes of a group of previously treatment naïve patients treated with combined photodynamic therapy with verteporfin and intravitreal pegaptanib for choroidal neovascularization secondary to ARMD.

METHODS

Retrospective review of ten eyes of ten consecutive patients with CNV secondary to ARMD. These patients had not received any prior treatment for CNV. Patients underwent treatment with PDT with verteporfin and intravitreal pegaptanib injection, within seven days of each other. Retreatment with PDT was based on leakage on subsequent fluorescein angiography and/or subretinal fluid on optical coherence tomography. Retreatment with pegaptanib was performed every 6 weeks.

RESULTS

Of the 10 eyes, 5 were classic neovascular membranes and 5 were occult neovascular membranes. Follow-up ranged from 4 to 7 months, with mean followup of 5.5 months. Stabilization of visual acuity, which was defined as no loss of lines of Snellen visual acuity, occurred in 8 patients (80%) and visual improvement occurred in 5 patients (50%). Average improvement of visual acuity was 1.6 lines. There was an average of 1.2 PDT treatments.

CONCLUSION

Although the follow-up is limited, combination therapy of PDT and intravitreal pegaptanib may be associated with significant stabilization and in some cases an improvement of visual acuity.