

Safety of an Intravitreal Injection of Bevacizumab (Avastin®): Results of a Multicenter Trial

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PURPOSE

To report the systemic and ocular complications of an intravitreal injection of bevacizumab (Avastin®).

METHODS

Open label, uncontrolled clinical study of eyes injected with either 1.25 mg or 2.5 mg intravitreal bevacizumab for a variety of retinal disorders. Patients underwent a complete ocular examination at baseline, weekly during the first month and then every month. Monitored systemic conditions included myocardial infarction, stroke, systemic hypertension, thromboembolic diseases and death. Bevacizumab was stored under refrigeration in two different ways: 1. A single vial of 100 mg /4 mL was re-utilized as needed; and 2. The contents of the vial was aliquoted out into single use injections under sterile conditions.

RESULTS

Nine hundred and ninety four intravitreal injections of bevacizumab in 782 eyes were reported from eight centers in seven countries. No cases of death, myocardial infarction, stroke, thromboembolic diseases, or colonic perforation were reported. No cases of retinal detachment or cataract were reported. The ocular complications included one case of uveitis and three cases each of an increased intraocular pressure and endophthalmitis.

CONCLUSION

An intravitreal injection of either 1.25 mg or 2.5 mg of bevacizumab appears to be safe and well tolerated during the first three months. Monitoring of the adverse side effects in these patients will continue.