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Combined Photodynamic Therapy with Verteporfin and Intravitreal Bevacizumab for Choroidal Neovascularization in Age-related Macular Degeneration

Gaurav K. Shah, MD (St. Louis, MO), Mandeep S. Dhalla, MD (St. Louis, MO), Kevin J. Blinder, MD (St. Louis, MO), Edwin H. Ryan, MD (Minneapolis, MN), Robert A. Mittra, MD (Minneapolis, MN), Asheesh Tewari, MD (St. Louis, MO)

PURPOSE
To examine the 6-month results of a group of patients treated with combined photodynamic therapy (PDT) with verteporfin with intravitreal bevacizumab for choroidal neovascularization (CNV) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

METHODS
Retrospective case series consisting of 40 eyes of 40 consecutive patients with CNV secondary to AMD. Patients with classic or occult lesion types were included in the study. Patients with CNV were treated with PDT and 1.25mg of intravitreal bevacizumab. All patients were naive to treatment and had either treatment within a fourteen day interval. Retreatment was based upon persistent leakage on fluorescein angiography. Patients with CNV were treated with PDT and 1.25mg of intravitreal bevacizumab. All patients were naïve to treatment and had either treatment within a fourteen day interval. Retreatment was based upon persistent leakage on fluorescein angiography.

RESULTS
Main Outcome Measures: Visual acuity stabilization defined as no change or gain in visual acuity. Retreatment rate will also be measured. Results: 6 month data for forty patients will be available at ASRS meeting time. At three month follow-up, 19/19 (100%) patients demonstrated stabilization of visual acuity. 18/9 (95%) of patients demonstrated an improvement in visual acuity with a mean improvement of 1.7 lines (8.5 letters). Patients with occult lesions (n? 13) improved by an average of 1.92 lines (9.5 letters); and patients with classic lesion (n? 6) improved by an average of 2.5 lines (12.5 letters). There were no complications, including endopthalmitis. No patients have required retreatment with PDT.

CONCLUSION
Preliminary data suggests that combined treatment of PDT with verteporfin and intravitreal bevacizumab may be useful in stabilizing visual acuity in occult and classic CNV secondary to AMD. Patients may benefit from an improvement in visual acuity and have a decreased need for retreatment with PDT.