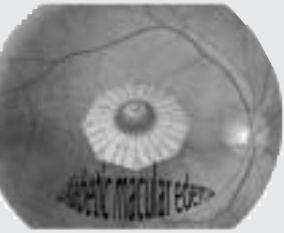


SYMPOSIUM: DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA

Moderators: Stephen Sinclair, Martine Mauget-Faysse, Silvia Bopp, Ferenc Kuhn

Tuesday, September 14, 2004 ; 8:00 - 3:10



Micropulsed diode laser therapy for diabetic macular edema

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Purpose:

To evaluate the effectiveness of micropulsed diode laser therapy for diabetic macular edema.

Methods:

A prospective, non-randomised study was performed in 25 eyes of 18 patients with diffuse and focal macular edema. Pre and post-laser assessment included visual acuity, biomicroscopy, FFA and macular perimetry. The laser employed was a slit-lamp mounted infrared (810 nm) device (Iridex, California), with a duty cycle of 5 or 10 %.

Results:

At 6 months' follow-up, resolution of macular edema with stabilisation of vision had occurred in 24 of 25 eyes (96%). Retreatment for persistent edema was needed in only 1 of 25 eyes (4%). In all cases, the treatment lesions were either not visible or of barely threshold intensity, with a consequently beneficial effect on preservation of macular function.

Conclusion:

Micropulsed therapy combines therapeutic efficacy and minimisation of iatrogenic side-effects and therefore has potential advantages compared with conventional laser therapy.