

Photodynamic therapy of choroidal neovascularization in course of diabetic retinopathy

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Purpose:

To assess the usage of photodynamic therapy (PDT) in treatment of subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in patients with concomitant diabetic retinopathy with regards to efficiency and safety issues.

Methods:

Five eyes in five patients underwent at least one course of PDT with verteporfin. PDT was performed according to standard protocol. The longest period of observation was 12 months. Visual acuity (VA), fundus colour photography, fluorescein angiography (FA), were performed before treatment and in follow-ups to evaluate therapeutic effect on CNV membrane as well as to reveal impact of procedure on retinal vasculature.

Results:

All of treated eyes presented stabilization or improvement of VA. FA demonstrated lack of leakage from CNV and no damage of retinal vessels.

Conclusion:

PDT of subfoveal CNV in patients with diabetic retinopathy as performed in few patients appeared safe and effective. A long lasting period of observation as well as more cases undergoing treatment and assessment procedures are needed to confirm the first outcomes.

Take-home message:

Diabetic retinopathy should not be automatically considered as a contraindication to PDT with verteporfin treatment of subfoveal CNV.

