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Steroids and uveitis: Saver or killer?

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Steroids are the first rank sight saver when uveitis is concerned. Be it systemic, topical or local, they are the standard therapy for uveitis, regardless of etiology, 50 % being linked to systemic diseases. Even though uveitis has an autoimmune basis unrelated to location in the eye, it may as well be triggered by infectious diseases: parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal. Steroids are started in concert with targeted therapy according to the real cause, which can at times be lethal if not diagnosed at the referral. Premature steroid use may obscure diagnostic tests and lead to suppression of clinical signs which may be valuable clues for the uveitis specialist. “Masquerade syndromes” including intraocular tumors and foreign bodies may be another topic of concern before intending steroid therapy for uveitis diseases.

Biography

Fusun Uzunoglu has graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at University of Istanbul, and has specialized in Ophthalmology at the same university. She is a Member of Uveitis Society of Turkish Ophthalmological Association, Intraocular Inflammation Society (IOIS) and EURETINA. She has been working as a Uveitis Specialist since 1992 and as a Retina Specialist since 2000. She has been entitled FICO (Fellow of International Council of Ophthalmology) in 2016.

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