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The effectiveness of Avastin intraocular injection for diabetic proliferative retinopathy

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Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness and complications of intraocular injections of Avastin in treatment of proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Subjects: The subject involved 42 eyes of 27 patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy stage before complications by classification of Amphediam.

Research Methodology: The methodology followed was a clinical trial without control groups. Eligible patients are evaluated by clinical, OCT and fluorescent exams. Intraocular injection of 1.25mg/0.05ml Avastin was immediately given at the first visit and successive injections were performed after 1 month, after 3 injections then more if needed.

Result: Visual acuity increased rapidly after first injection in 50% of cases, after the 2nd injections in 9 eyes (21.42%), after the 3th injection in 5 eyes (11.9%) and after the 4th injection in 5 eyes (11.9%). Ultimate visual acuity: increased in 34 eyes (80.95%), unchanged in 6 eyes (14.28%), decreased in 2 eyes (4.76%). The regression of vitreoretinal lesions is well achieved such as blood vitreous, retinal exudates, macular edema. Intraretinal hemorrhage before injection was in 16.7% but decreased after the first injection to 7.1%. Hard exudates in all eyes before treatment, completely re-absorbed after the last injections. Cotton exudates in 23.8% disappeared shortly after the first injection. Neovascularization in 100% of cases decreased to 78.6% after the first injection, and remained in only 19% after last injection. IRMAs decreased rapidly: after the first injection from 83.3% to 64.3%, after 3th injection IRMAs were seen in 31% and after the last injections only in 21%. Retinal edema was noted in 100% initially, after the first injection remained in 88.1% and after 3 injections in 28.6%, and finally have completely gone. The microaneurysmal and hemorrhages intraretinal persisted in all patients. Similarly, Vitreo-retinal fibrous membrane did not change after treatment. Complications: some mild complications were primarily seen at the injection sites such as bleeding, pain. Heavy vitreoretinal bleeding was seen in 1 case only.

Conclusion: Avastin injections 1.25 mg/0.05 ml intraocular is effective and safe for the treatment of proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

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