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Intravitreal bevacizumab in the treatment of retinopathy of prematurity: The new gold standard?

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Bevacizumab (Avastin®, Genentech, San Francisco, Ca) is a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody that blocks angiogenesis by inhibiting vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A). It has been used successfully in the treatment of macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema and proliferative retinopathy and other retinal vascular diseases. It has been shown to be effective and safe in the treatment of specific stages of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). The purpose of this talk is to compare and contrast intravitreal injection of bevacizumab with laser treatment, the current standard of care of care, and discuss the evolving treatment options in this disease. A number of multi center based studies will be discussed, including Early Treatment for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ETROP) and Bevacizumab Eliminates the Angiogenic Threat of Retinopathy of Prematurity [BEAT-ROP], as well as a recent meta-analysis on the subject. In addition, our personal experience over a number of years at 2 large centers in New York will be included. Treatment algorithms will be included.

Biography

Ronni M Lieberman has received her Medical training at SUNY Downstate in New York, where she also completed her Ophthalmology Residency. She then went on to complete a 2 year Surgical Retina Fellowship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She is the Director of Medical Retina Services for the Queens Hospital Network, an HHC affiliate. She has published extensively, participated in clinical trials and is involved in the training of ophthalmology residents in the HHC and at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

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