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Retinopathy of prematurity: What is new about the pathogenesis and treatment

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Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a leading cause of childhood blindness in developing and developed countries. CRYO-ROP (Cryotherapy for ROP) and ETROP (Early Treatment of ROP) studies demonstrated various successful outcomes after peripheral thermoablation (cryo/laser) of avascular retina. Cryo-ablation was successful in 75% of the cases in the CRYO-ROP study. After the cryo era, even with high success rates of up to 98% depending upon the severity of the disease, laser was not effective, particularly in zone I and aggressive posterior ROP (APROP) cases. Research data demonstrated the role of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in the pathogenesis of ROP and anti-VEGF treatments were developed as another therapeutic option. It seems that anti-VEGF treatment is about to become the gold standard in ROP management. Despite an ongoing debate about the possible systemic adverse effects, clinical practice of intravitreal anti-VEGF (bevacizumab) injection demonstrated a better systemic clinical course in all premature babies without any exception besides dramatically successful results for ROP. Those results were able to give some clue about a possible one pathogenic mechanism for all morbidities including intracranial hemorrhage and associated cerebral complications, bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and ROP. Details of this possible pathogenesis will be discussed in this lecture.

Biography

Huseyin Yetik was graduated from Istanbul University, Istanbul School of Medicine in 1996 and completed his Ophthalmology Residency program in 2000 in Istanbul University, Cerrahpasa School of Medicine. He has worked in several governmental and private hospitals as Academician including Goztepe Educational Hospital, Zeynep-Kamil Educational Hospital, Yeditepe University School of Medicine and Memorial Health Group. He has also worked in Azerbaijan, Albania, Kazakhstan as an Academician and Vitreoretinal Consultant. He is currently a Professor in Istanbul University, Cerrahpasa School of Medicine and Vitreoretinal Consultant and Chief of Ophthalmology Department of SurpPirgic Armenian Foundation Hospital. He is a Member of American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Association of Retina Specialist, European Retina Society (EURETINA) and Turkish Ophthalmology Society.

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