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New insights in the pathogenesis of retinal vein occlusions

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The pathogenesis of retinal vein occlusions remains to be solved. Mechanical compression of the vessel wall or thrombotic occlusion of the vessel lumen sometimes, combined with rheological disorders are often assumed mechanisms. Accordingly, the therapy also either relies on mechanical decompression, lysis of thrombi or improvement of the rheology. Yet the pathophysiological concepts described in the literature so far covers some aspects of the disease, they do not sufficiently explain all the phenomena. A number of observations as for example, the occurrence of RVO in younger patients without any signs of atherosclerosis, spontaneous reversibility particularly in young patients, occlusion despite anti coagulation or thrombocytopenia and finally the positive effect of anti-VEGF therapy are not explained by the present pathogenetic concept. As a new concept, we previously proposed a local venous constriction induced by vasoactive molecules diffusing from neighboring diseased arteries and/or from neighboring (hypoxic) tissues.

Biography

Maneli Mozaffarieh is a Glaucoma Specialist who completed her specialization with Prof. Josef Flammer, former Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Basel. She currently teaches at the University of Basel and works clinically at the Augenglattzentrum in Zurich.

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