

5th International Conference on

Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology

August 04-06, 2015 Valencia, Spain

New insights in the pathogenesis of retinal vein occlusions

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The pathogenesis of the condition 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 whilst 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 anticoagulation 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 working at the University of Basel, Department of Ophthalmology. The focus of her research is on ocular blood flow.

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