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Service (sector)

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Nº CEP

**Assessing visual function and quality of life in patients with subfoveal choroidal neovascular membranes treated with photodynamic therapy with veteporfin.**

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PURPOSE: Measure the impact of photodynamic therapy (pdt) in visual function and quality of life of patients with subfoveal choroidal neovascular membranes in age related macular degeneration (armd).

Methods: Design: Prospective non-controlled study. Inclusion criteria: patients with subfoveal choroidal neovascular membranes with visual acuity etdrs chart from 20/40 up to 20/200 and with a maximum of 5.6 mm of neovascular subretinal membrane area. Fourteen (14) patients with subfoveal choroidal neovascular membranes related to armd were enrolled in this study. Visual function questionnaire 25 (vfq 25 – nei) was applied in patients preoperatively and three months after photodynamic treatment. Preoperative: vfq 25 scores, vfq 25 sub-scales scores and visual acuity were compared to postoperative outcomes. spearman correlation coefficient was applied to hypothesize the relationship between scale score, visual acuity and laser treated area.

Results: Seven patients improved their visual acuity (43.75%), seven patients decreased their visual acuity (43.75%) and two patients maintained their pre-treatment visual acuity ( $p=0.502$ ). eight patients improved their vfq 25 scores (57.14%). the vfq 25 sub-scales scores - role difficulties and peripheral vision improved after pdt with statistically significant difference ( $p=0.042$  and  $p=0.013$  respectively) there was no statistically significant correlation between change in visual acuity and vfq 25 scores, neither correlation between vfq 25 scores and laser treated area.

Conclusion: Previous studies of photodynamic therapy for age related macular degeneration have utilized visual acuity as the only outcome measure. In this present study, change in vfq 25 score, estimate of functional impairment and quality of life was applied to analyses the outcomes. There was an improvement in role difficulty and peripheral vision subscales score after treatment; but there was no statistically significant correlation between change in visual acuity and vfq 25 scores