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Service (sector) Glaucoma Nº CEP

A STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGICAL GUIDANCE AND PATIENT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC OPEN ANGLE GLAUCOMA Mucci Paula R;Mello Paulo A A;Galhardo Roberta A;Belfort Ricardo

Introduction: Glaucoma is,today, one of the most frequent causes of blindness. It is of the utmost importance for the patient to have some knowledge about the pathology. As with every chronic disease, glaucoma involves problems concerning the proper compliance with its treatment. The necessity of continued assistance in following up the medical treatment cannot be overemphasized. Objective: To assess observance of the medical treatment in chronic open angle simplex glaucoma patients with and without psychological assistance. Material and Method: 24 patients were assessed:8 of them, receiving medical and psychological assistance, constituted the group of study; the control group comprised 16 patients under medical guidance only. In the control group-14 men and 2 women aged between 50 and 82 years, there were 10 of the white race,4 mulattos and 2 blacks. As to marital status, there were 8 married, 4 widowed, 3 separated and 1 single. Their medication varied from 2 to 9 different brands of eye drops. 13 of the cases in the control group required surgery. In the study group-7 men and 1 woman, ages varying between 54 and 86 years, 3 were white, 2 were black and 3 were mulattos. There were 4 married, 2 widowed, 1 separated and 1 single. Their medication varied from 1 to 3 different types of eye drops, and there were no surgical cases in this group. Results: Through medical and psychological assistance extended to the patients in the study group, it was verified that intraocular pressure substantially decreased after the second month, without any surgical case. In the control group, under medical assistance only, increase of the intraocular pressure and eventual surgery(80%)was verfied. There was statistically significant relation between the intaocular pressure and the time of study. Conclusion: Analyses of the results obtained in this study show the necessity of complying with treatment of glaucoma .In the study group with psychological assistance, better compliance with the treatment was achieved, of these data allows recognition of how important is psychological evaluation logical guidance for patients presenting with Chronic Glaucoma.