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Photothermal Therapy with Indocyanine Green for Occult Choroidal Neovascularization in Age-Related Macular Degeneration

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Purpose: To evaluate the efficacy of large spot, low irradiance 810-nm light and intravenous injection of small-volume, high-concentration indocyanine green (ICG) bolus, termed Photothermal Therapy (PTT), for the treatment of occult subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Methods: A prospective, noncomparative case series. Ophthalmic examination, fluorescein and indocyanine green angiography as well as optical coherence tomography were used to evaluate the effects of a single treatment of PTT in twenty-five patients (27 eyes) in a follow-up period of 12 weeks. Results: Twenty-five eyes (92.6%) exhibited an increase or stabilization of visual acuity in a follow-up period of 3 months. Mild visual loss occurred in two patients due to development of a classic lesion or CNV progression. Hemorrhagic pigment epithelium detachment (3 eyes) was observed after 3 months of treatment and may be related to the procedure. Conclusions: Photothermal therapy is a novel and low-cost treatment that achieved short-term cessation of fluorescein leakage from CNV complex, preserving or increasing visual acuity in all but two eyes.