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Intraocular viral and immune pathogenesis of immune recovery uveitis in patients with healed cytomegalovirus retinitis

Claudio Renato Garcia 1, William R. Freeman 2, Cristina Muccioli 1 1-Uveitis and AIDS Sector - Department of Ophthalmology UNIFESP 2-Shiley Eye Center - University of California San Diego Purpose: To investigate the role of CMV and the immune response in pathogenesis of IRU Methods: Ocular fluids (aqueous and vitreous) from patients with IRU and retinitis were compared for presence of cytokines: IL-6, IL12, TNF-alpha, beta chemokines, interferon gamma and CMV DNA. Results: IRU eyes (11 patients, 17 samples) had significant levels of IL-12 (median 53 pg/ml, p=.02), IL-6 (median 218pg/ml), but no CMV DNA (9/9). Active retinitis eyes (17 patients, 28 samples) had higher levels of IL-6 (median 581pg/ml, p=.01), insignificant levels of other cytokines assayed, and were CMV DNA postive (5/5). Conclusion: Cytokine and virologic profiles differ in retinitis and IRU eyes and presence of IL-12 in IRU eyes is consistent with generation of a specific T-cell immune response.