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Service (sector) Electrophysiology N° CEP

ERG AND CHLOROQUINE MACULAR TOXICITY

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Purpose To evaluate retinal function in patients with chloroquine maculopathy Retina Sector of Universidade Federal de São Paulo. **Methods** Sixteen eyes with different stages of chloroquine retinopathy were submitted to ophthalmologic evaluations including a complete ocular examination, recording of focal and full-field electroretinogram (ISCEV standard) and Humphrey 10-2 visual field test. **Results** All eight cases showed reduction in focal ERG amplitude and normal full-field ERG. The abnormal amplitude was present in both eyes in 6 cases. The daily dose was 250mg for all patients and the cumulative dose ranging from 91,25g to 730g. Humphrey visual field testing was normal in four patients. The visual acuity varied between 20/20 and 20/40 and there is a positive correlation between visual acuity and duration of therapy with $P=0,025$. According to Pearson Correlation there is not significant relationship between the ERG amplitude and duration of therapy, and visual acuity and ERG amplitude. **Conclusions** Reduced amplitudes in the focal ERG were found in all patients with chloroquine retinopathy. The focal electroretinogram was able to detect retinal dysfunction in chloroquine retinopathy while the full-field electroretinogram and threshold visual field remained normal and fundoscopic changes were mild. A newer electrophysiologic technique, the multifocal electroretinogram, can provide a better objective data across the posterior pole, and photoreceptor function. The management of rheumatoid diseases continues to improve and significant education needs to be devoted to the monitoring and diagnosis of ocular toxicity of chloroquine by both ophthalmologists and rheumatologists.