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Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous N° CEP

Diode laser photocoagulation for Retinopathy of Prematurity

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Purpose: To study the outcome of patients who underwent diode laser photocoagulation for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP).

Methods: Prospective study. The treatment was indicated for patients with threshold retinopathy. All the procedures were performed with general anesthesia. Twenty-six patients (15 male / 11 female) who underwent indirect diode laser photocoagulation for the treatment of ROP from Jan/1997 to Sep/2002 were included.

Results: The mean gestational age (GA) was 29.08 weeks (± 2.57), and the mean birth weight (BW) was 1051.73 g (± 284.94). At the first exam, the mean age was 10.12 weeks (± 3.67). 14 (28%) patients presented stage 3 ROP with plus 1, 19 (38%) stage 3 ROP with plus 2, 13 (26%) stage 3 with plus 3 and 4 (8%) stage 4. No complication of the procedure was observed. ROP regression was identified in 88.0% of the treated patients. GA and age at the first exam of patients with ROP regression did not differ from those patients with ROP progression after treatment. Nevertheless, the mean BW was significant lower among those with progression ($p=0.01$).

Conclusion: The indirect diode laser treatment was shown to be a safe and efficient procedure in this series. Low birth weight might be a predictor of poor outcome.