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Cytologic-histologic correlation in intraocular lesions suspicious for malignancy

Zélia Corrêa, MD, James Augsburg, MD, Luciane Irion, MD, Clélia Erwenne, MD Purpose: To correlate the cytology findings of fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) of intraocular tumors with the histopathology specimen when enucleation or tumor resection was the treatment of choice. Patients and methods: This was a retrospective analysis of 51 patients submitted to FNAB for diagnostic purposes or cyto-histologic correlation. Exclusion criteria were: non-solid lesions, conservative treatment and ultrasound guided biopsies. After exclusions, 20 patients with intra-ocular solid lesions suspected to be malignant were studied. All biopsies were performed by the first author under direct or indirect visualization. The chosen route was trans-aqueous for anterior segment tumors and trans-vitreous through the sclera for posterior segment tumors except in suspicious cases of retinoblastoma which were biopsied through the peripheral cornea. Two samples were obtained from different areas of the tumor with a 25 gauge needle in all cases. After FNAB, samples were sent for processing, fixation, and stain with Papanicolaou and hematoxylin-eosin (HE). Histology specimens were stained with HE. Results: After exclusions, 20 patients were included , 12 of them were females. Age of the studied patients varied from 2 to 78 years. Three cases consisted of anterior segment (iris) tumors and rest were situated in the posterior segment, 3 of them were retinoblastomas. Nine patients were biopsied for diagnostic purposes and 11 for cytologic-histologic correlation post enucleation. In only two cases, FNAB yielded insufficient material for diagnosis. These cases subsequently were proved to be a granuloma and a melanoma. Conclusions: Fine needle aspiration biopsy seems to be a reliable procedure based on cytological-histological correlations in the study group.

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