

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Electrophysiology - Uveitis Department N° CEP

Electrophysiologic Findings in Patients with Acute Retinal Necrosis.

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Purpose: It was intended to study the alterations in electroretinogram (ERG) caused by acute retinal necrosis. **Methods:** Ten patients with acute retinal necrosis were examined in Uveitis Department of São Geraldo Hospital, Minas Gerais Federal University. The exams were done following the ISCEV standard. The ERG was done with a full field (Ganzfeld) stimulation and a white light stimulus. Five basic ERG responses were measured: rod response, maximal combined response, oscillatory potentials, single flash cone response, 30-Hz flicker response. The exams were done in the time of diagnosis and repeated with 7, 15, 21, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 days after the treatment with acyclovir. The same tests were done with normal patients, that were used as control group. The exams were done in EPIC 2000 version 3.10., LKC technologies. **Results:** The following alterations were noticed after comparing the acute retinal necrosis group with the control group, concerning the ERG measurements statistically important ($p < 0.05$): a- seven patients had ERG exam with no response in the first exam and still like that in the others ERG exams; these patients had advanced inflammation and a late diagnosis; b- three patients had ERG exam with implicit time and amplitude increased in the first exam, that became almost normal in the subsequent exams; these patients had early diagnosis. **Conclusions:** The ERG alterations are not specific of the disease, but can suggest the severity of the inflammation and the prognostic of the disease.