

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Tumor and Pathology N° CEP

TRANSPUPILLARY THERMOTHERAPY FOR CHOROIDAL MELANOMA

Authors: Chojniak,MM; Erwenne, CM; Guia,T. Introduction: Several methods of treatment have been used for choroidal melanoma, the most common primary intraocular malignancy in adults. Transpupillary thermotherapy is a new approach for the treatment of small choroidal melanoma using heat obtained from a near infrared laser beam. Purpose: This study evaluates tumor response, ocular side effects, and visual results of transpupillary thermotherapy for small choroidal melanoma. Methods: Selected tumors had maximum 4 mm thickness, 12 mm base diameter, documented growth, risk factors for growth and for metastasis. Transpupillary infrared diode laser with large beam and a 810 nm energy was used. Up to six (mean 3) one minute sessions were delivered at 6 weeks intervals. Patients were followed for at least 1 year. Results: 27 consecutive patients with choroidal melanoma were treated with transpupillary thermotherapy, with a mean age of 60 years. Right eye was involved in 11 cases(40.7%) and left eye in 16 cases (59.3%). The most common symptom was blurred vision (74.1%). The mean tumor basal diameter was 8,52mm and tumor thickness was 2,78 mm. Risk factors for growth and for metastatic disease were present in an average of 3,3 and 2,7 respectively. 19 (70,4%) had documented growth. The tumors were followed for a mean 37,5 months. All treated tumors decreased in size, with a mean thickness and basal diameter reduction of 1,37mm and 2,67 mm respectively, corresponding to 48% and 30,8% in reduction. Complete tumor control without recurrence was possible in 25 cases (92.6%) and recurrence occurred in 2 cases (7.4%), both at tumor margin, after 13,1 and 15,5 months of treatment. Plaque radiotherapy was successful in controlling both. Eye conservation rate was 100%. After treatment the visual acuity was the same or better in 10 eyes (37%) and worse in 17 eyes (63%). The factors related to vision worsening included treatment through the foveola (6), and complications such as retinal vascular obstruction (7), optic disc atrophy (5), vitreal hemorrhage (4) and retinal traction (4). One patient died from metastasis, 33 months after treatment. Conclusions: Transpupillary thermotherapy is an effective treatment for small posterior choroidal melanoma, providing satisfactory local tumor control. Treatment side effects can result in some decrease in visual acuity. Longer follow-up will be necessary to better assess thermotherapy efficacy.