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Service (sector) Uveitis and AIDS N° CEP

Immunosuppressive drugs for the treatment of non infectious Uveitis.

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Purpose: To analyze the use of immunosuppressive drugs for the treatment of non infectious chronic and aggressive uveitis. Methods: Retrospective study of 53 patients examined at the Uveitis Sector at Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP) from Dezember 1997 to August 2003 that were treated with immunosuppressive drugs. Results: The charts from 53 patients that were treated with immunosuppressive drugs were reviewed. From them, 27 (51%) were female, with mean age of 40,22 years (range 12 – 76). The ocular diagnosis were: chronic and aggressive anterior uveitis (20 patients, 38%), Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada (11 patients, 21%), Behçet's disease (10 patients, 19%), necrotizing scleritis (6 patients, 11%), intermediate uveitis (3 patients, 5%), sarcoidosis (1 patient, 2%), vasculitis (1 patient, 2%) and Wegener's granulomatosis (1 patient, 2%). From the total, 34 patients (64%) were previously treated with corticosteroids and 13 patients (25%) with other immunosuppressive drug. The immunosuppressive drug used was: methotrexate (18 patients, 34%), cyclosporine (15 patients, 27%), azathioprine (13 patients, 25%), cyclophosphamide (2 patients, 4%), azathioprine and cyclosporine (2 patients, 4%), azathioprine and methotrexate (2 patients, 4%) and chlorambucil (1 patient, 2%). The mean follow-up time for treatment was 14,88 months. Control of ocular inflammation was achieved in 43 patients (81%) and 28 patients (53%) preserved or improved their visual acuity. Association of corticosteroids and immunosuppressive drug was used in 39 patients (74%). The most common ocular complications were: cataract (23 patients, 41%), glaucoma (16 patients, 28%), macular edema (8 patients, 14%) and vasculitis (3 patients, 5%). Conclusions: The immunosuppressive drugs are very useful for the treatment of non infectious chronic uveitis.