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Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous N° CEP

Angiographic and histological characteristics of a sodium iodate retinal pigment epithelial degeneration model in rabbits

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Purpose: To evaluate by fluorescein angiography and histologically a sodium iodate model (NaIO₃) of retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) loss in rabbits.

Methods: Five male New Zealand rabbits were injected intravenously either with 2% NaIO₃ (n=3; 70 mg/kg; Sigma-Aldrich) or saline solution (n=2) at eight weeks of age. All animals underwent fluorescein angiography before treatment and 7 days after treatment; After one week the animals were killed and their retina was submitted to histological examination.

Results: Out of three rabbits two were submitted to fluorescein angiography one week after administration of intravenously with 2% NaIO₃ (one animal died of unexplained causes). The rabbits injected with the NaIO₃ solution presented on fluorescein angiography with patchy areas of transmitted fluorescence secondary to pigment epithelial window defect. In the saline treated group no similar defects were found. The histological data is still under analysis.

Conclusions: The NaIO₃ injection resulted in areas of RPE atrophy in the rabbits. The histological data may address if this model is RPE selective.