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Relationship between Human Papilomavirus in pterygium and inferior sexual tract of female patients

Autors

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Introduction

Pterygium is a conjunctival degeneration with growth onto the cornea, usually nasally. It is constituted of fibrovascular tissue continuous with the bulbar conjunctiva that occurs in the palpebral fissure area. Although many theories were proposed, this alteration is considered to have a multifatorial etiology, including ultraviolet light exposure, microtraumatism, wind, dust, chronic inflammation, age, immunologic disturbances and genetic autosomal inheritance. The human papillomavirus (HPV) is considered another possible causing agent of pterygium.

Objective

Evaluate the association of the presence of HPV in pterygium and genital infection in female individuals.

Patients and Methods

In a transversal study 20 patients with pterygium were selected in the External Disease Sector of the Ophthalmology Department of the Federal University of São Paulo. These patients did not have any disease that could influence their immune status, such as diabetes, corticosteroid use or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. They also were never been submitted to previous ocular surgery procedure, except from previous pterygium surgery. The pterygium was classified as grade I, when had 1mm from the limbus; grade II when its extension was below the limbus, but did not reach the pupillary area; grade III when reached the pupillary area; grade IV when crossed the pupillary area. Considering the morphological aspect, the lesion was classified as grade I when the episcleral vessels under the lesion were clearly visualized, grade II when partially visualized and grade III when the visualization of the episcleral vessels was impossible.

The pterygium excised during the surgery was divided in two symmetrical pieces. One of them was sent to anatomopathological evaluation. The second one was stocked in a tube that contained DNAzol, an special substance used to extract the DNA from biological material and search for the HPV using the polymerase chain reaction. This second tube was sent to the Gynecology Laboratory, where the search for HPV was made.

The patients were also evaluated for an experienced gynecologist. During this evaluation cervico-vaginal material was collected and sent to the Gynecology Laboratory and the same process to detect HPV was conducted. Necessary treatment for any pathology found during the gynecological exam was offered to the patient.

Results and Conclusions

Data are still being collected and a proper statistical analysis will be made.