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PDT therapy combined with intravitreal bevacizumab versus intravitreal bevacizumab alone in choroidal neovascularization due to age-related macular degeneration.

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of photodynamic therapy (PDT) with verteporfin combined with intravitreal bevacizumab (IVB) in choroidal neovascularization (CNV) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in comparison with IVB alone used as controls.

DESIGN: Randomized controlled, double mask and pilot clinical trial.

METHODS: Males or females, aged > or =50 years, with all types of CNV owing to AMD in at least 1 eye that had never been treated previously. They were randomly assigned to receive either a single PDT session with verteporfin combine with IVB and two consecutive monthly IVB injection (group G1), or three consecutive monthly administration of IVB 1.25 mg (group G2). For all the groups were made three injections of IVB 3 months consecutively. At G1 the bevacizumab was administered just after PDT. Subjects were followed up at baseline and 3 months after treatment. Ophthalmic evaluations including optical coherence tomography, fluorescein angiography, ETDRS visual acuity (VA) and central foveal thickness (CFT) measurements were performed at each visit.

RESULTS: 7 eyes (3 males, 4 females) aged between 63 and 82 years completed the study. At the 3-month follow-up, significant improvements in best-corrected VA were observed at G1 and G2 groups. Significant reductions of CFT were observed in the 2 groups.

CONCLUSIONS: Significant improvements in best-corrected VA after 3-month period were observed in two groups. These results should be confirmed in larger and long-term prospective randomized trials.