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### **Choroidal Melanoma – Epidemiological review in the latest three years on the Ocular Oncology Unit at São Paulo Federal University.**

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**PURPOSE:** To evaluate the epidemiological characteristics in patients referred for treating choroidal melanoma on the Ocular Oncology service at São Paulo Federal University.

**DESIGN:** Retrospective noncomperative case series.

**METHODS:** Review of charts of all patients with choroidal melanoma on the ocular service at São Paulo Federal University between January 2004 and December 2006. The epidemiological outcomes evaluated were sex, age, race and the correlation about tumor size ( A-B scan ultrasonography) and treatment. Patients were excluded from the study if any epidemiological reference or ultrasound records not were in the charts.

**RESULTS:** Data could be found for 66 patients. There were more female, 38 (57.58%) than males, 28 (42.42%). Mean diagnosis age was 54.9 years (range 25-82) and the white race was predominate (50 patients, 75.76%). Twenty-three patients were excluded.

In the others 43 patients, the choroidal melanoma was classified by A-Bscan ultrasound height, as small ( $\leq 4.0$  mm) in 12 (27.91%), medium (4.1-6.0 mm) in 7 (16.28%) and large ( $\geq 6.1$  mm) in 24 (55.81%).

The primary treatment for small choroidal melanoma (SCM) was transpupillary thermotherapy (TTT) for 9 patients, I-125 brachytherapy for 2 and 1 patient underwent TTT out of our service. In medium choroidal melanoma (MCM) was brachytherapy for 3 patients, TTT for 2 patients and enucleation for 2 patients. For large choroidal melanoma (LCM) was enucleation for 19 and brachytherapy for 5 patients.

Recurrence after first treatment occurred in 5 patients with SCM, 3 patients with MCM and 1 patient with LCM.

The recurrence was treated by brachytherapy in 3 patients with SCM and by enucleation in 2 patients with SCM and in 2 with MCM. TTT was adjuvant treatment for recurrence in 1 patient with MCM and 1 with LCM.

In the enucleated eyes our pathological analysis found a predominance of mixed cell melanoma (71.43%)

**CONCLUSION:** The Ocular Oncology service at São Paulo Federal University is one of the few references, in Brazil, when it comes to public treatment in this kind of pathology which justify our outcomes in which the major parts of patients shows large size tumors at the moment of diagnosis, giving cause for enucleation to be the only treatment possible aiming to decrease possibilities of systemic metastasis.