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Choroidal metastasis: epidemiological study at the Ocular Oncology Unit of the Federal University of São Paulo-Brazil.

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PURPOSE: To do an epidemiological analysis of patients with choroidal metastasis and compare data to the literature.

METHODS: A retrospective review of charts of 20 patients with choroidal metastasis referred to the Ocular Oncology Unit of the Federal University of São Paulo-Brazil from 2002 to August 2007 was performed. Age, gender, race, type of primary tumor, visual acuity at the diagnosis, location of the tumor and presence of retinal detachment were analyzed.

RESULTS: The mean age was 40 years old). 80% of the patients were females and 45% white. At the diagnosis, the majority of the patients had severe visual impairment (< 20/80). An elevated solid mass was observed at the posterior pole in all 20 patients, and in 6 of them there was associated retinal detachment. The primary tumor was breast carcinoma in 13 female patients (65%), lung carcinoma in 3 male patients (15%), gynecologic neoplasia in 2 cases (10%), skin melanoma in 1 case (5%) and no primary tumor diagnosed in 1 case (5%).

CONCLUSION: In our study, the most common primary tumor was breast carcinoma, in female patients, as reported in the literature. Decrease of visual acuity was the main complaint of the patients with choroidal metastasis, but not related only with retinal detachment.