Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy in Caucasian patients with presumed neovascular age-related macular degeneration and poor ranibizumab response

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Summary

Purpose

Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) “...is known to be common in Asian populations; therefore, indocyanine green angiography (ICGA) is generally included in initial clinical examination in Asia.” The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of PCV in Caucasian age-related macular degeneration (AMD) patients who responded poorly to ranibizumab.

Methods

Indocyanine green angiography was used to look for PCV in 202 eyes from 180 Caucasian patients with presumed AMD. The eyes were classified in two groups based on the number of ranibizumab injections received within the first 12 months of treatment. Group 1 received six or more injections within the first 12 months, group 2 received less than six injections. Patients diagnosed with PCV were offered combination therapy with reduced-fluence photodynamic therapy (PDT) and ranibizumab.

Results

• The prevalence of PCV in group 1 was more than five times that of group 1 (21.5% vs 3.8%).
• Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy eyes treated with combination therapy received an average of 3.1 ranibizumab injections/year following PDT vs 8.4 injections/year before PDT.

Conclusion

• In this study, ICGA revealed PCV in 16.8% of Caucasian patients and in 21.5% of eyes requiring 6 or more anti-VEGF injections/year.
• „Better access to ICGA for early diagnosis of PCV is important so that the most appropriate treatment options can be started before irreversible disease damage occurs.”
• Combination therapy involving PDT may be needed to effectively treat PCV.