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Effectivity of Bevacizumab (Avastin) on the treatment of choroidal neovascularisation due to age related macular degeneration

Principal Worker

Brig Ajay Banarji

Unit

AFMC

Objectives

Age related macular degeneration is the leading cause of irreversible blindness. Focal laser photo-coagulation, a destructive procedure turned out to be only viable for treating extra foveal CNV, and even then, it was not entirely effective. A study was therefore proposed to study the safety and efficacy of Bevacizumab in the treatment of neo-vascular AMD.

Method

Consecutive patients attending the Eye OPD were screened for AMD on the basis of visual acuity and the fundus findings. These screened patients were then subjected to detailed ocular examination and taken medical history. After complete ocular and systemic evaluation, selected patients were then administered intra-vitreous Bevacizumab.

Results

Mean age of patients was 66.93 years with a range of 51-83 yrs and out of which 17 were male and 13 were females. 43% had bilateral disease. And a total of 38 eyes received intravitreal Bevacizumab. The mean acuity of vision was 4/60 with a range of Hand movements close to face to 6/9. The average no of injections received by a patient was 5.13. 24 patients (80%) showed an initial improvement in vision over the baseline vision after the 1st injection. Of the 13 patients with bilateral disease, 7 (54%) showed improvement in vision in the un-injected eye within 04 weeks of receiving the 1st injection to the worse eye.

Recommendations

Intravitreal inj. of 1.25 mg of Bevacizumab is recommended for the management of neovascular AMD. Patients should be meticulously screened for IHD and history of stroke and these patients should not be given intravitreal Bevacizumab. Inj Bevacizumab should be introduced in PVMS and authorized to all eye centers as neo-vascular AMD is a common condition affecting elderly.