Dexamethasone

Cataract and transient ocular hypertension: 7 case reports

In a prospective study of 23 patients treated between 1 January 2016 and 31 October 2018, seven patients [2 men and 5 women] of ages 53–82 years were described, who developed transient ocular hypertension (4 patients), cataract (2 patients) and transient ocular hypertension with cataract (1 patient) during treatment with dexamethasone for retinal vein occlusion (RVO).

The study patients had persistent macular oedema due to branch retinal vein occlusion (1 patient) and central RVO (6 patients) which was unresponsive to unspecified anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) injections. Thereafter, these patients received one or more sustained-release intravitreal dexamethasone [Ozurdex] 0.7mg implants injections in 'as needed' regimens. The injections were administered in the operation theatre. Thereafter, all patients received antibiotic treatment with tobramycin for 5 days. Among these seven patients, four patients developed transient ocular hypertension, two patients developed cataract following the second dexamethasone injections and underwent cataract surgery during follow-up and one patient developed transient ocular hypertension along with cataract, but did not require surgery.

The patients, who developed ocular hypertension were successfully treated with unspecified intra-ocular pressure-lowering medications which were discontinued after 2–3 months of the implantation.

Author comment: "Each patient received an initial intraocular dexamethasone implant. "The cumulative rate of adverse effects for both groups was four patients with ocular hypertension, two with cataract and one with both ocular hypertension and cataract."

Georgalas L, et al. Efficacy and safety of dexamethasone intravitreal implant in patients with retinal vein occlusion resistant to anti-VEGF therapy: a 12-month prospective study. Cutaneous and Ocular Toxicology 38; 330-337, No. 4, 2 Oct 2019. Available from: URL: http://doi.org/10.1080/15569527.2019.1614020 - Greece