Photodynamic therapy for choroidal neovascularization in patients with multifocal choroiditis and panuveitis.

Short title: PDT for CNV in multifocal choroiditis.

Christina Gerth, Georg Spital, Albrecht Lommatzsch, Arnd Heiligenhaus and Daniel Pauleikhoff

Background: To evaluate the visual benefit of photodynamic therapy (PDT) with verteporfin in patients with choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) secondary to multifocal choroiditis and panuveitis over a longer follow-up period.

Methods: A total of 14 eyes of 12 patients (mean age 34 years) with a classic subfoveal CNV (13/14) or juxtafoveal CNV (1/14) were treated with PDT. Visual outcome was assessed by best-corrected visual acuity (VA). Morphologic characteristics of CNVs such as localization, size and activity were monitored by fluorescein angiography.

Results: Patients were followed for 3 to 45 months (mean 23 months). During this period, one to six PDTs (mean 2.4) were performed. At the time of the first PDT no acute inflammation was seen in the affected eyes. Improved or stabilized visual function (VA loss ≤ 2 lines in the ETDRS chart) was observed in 71.4% of the eyes. 78% of the eyes showed an inactive scar in the area of CNV after PDT. Treatment failure after PDT occurred due to uninfluenced CNV growth. No further complications were observed.

Conclusion: PDT in subfoveal or juxtafoveal classic CNV secondary to multifocal choroiditis and panuveitis stabilized or improved VA in the majority of patients over a longer follow-up period. No risk factor for failed VA rehabilitation could be defined.