

Acute retinal necrosis; Vitrectomy versus medical treatment?

Seyedeh Simindokht
Farabi Eye Hospital, Iran

Background: Acute Retinal Necrosis is a progressive fulminant viral ocular involvement that presents as retinal necrosis and vascular involvement caused by human herpes viruses. A case series of patients with such an involvement and their management is reviewed here.

Methods: Medical records of 57 patients with acute retinal necrosis admitted to Farabi eye hospital in recent 20 years, and their management is studied retrospectively.

Results: From 57 patients, 25 females and 32 males from age 19 to 72 years old. At presentation, 27 patients had right eye involvement, 27 had left eye involvement, and three patients had binocular involvement. Visual acuity was below 20/400 in 54.4% of the involved eyes; 91.2% of the involved eyes had vision less than 20/40. Ocular hypertension was detected in 9.9% of the cases. Retinal break and detachment was recorded in 27 patients (47.4%). All patients were treated with systemic antiviral therapy. Deep vitrectomy was performed in 32 patients, of whom five patients underwent primary vitrectomy before retinal detachment and they did not develop detachment in the follow up sessions. Eighteen (31.6%) of the patients received intravitreal injection of ganciclovir. Barrier laser was performed in 38 (66.7%) patients.

Conclusion: Even early in the course of the disease, deep vitrectomy did not have significant effect on the visual prognosis of the involved eye; but five cases that underwent primary vitrectomy did not develop retinal detachment in the course of the disease. More investigation is warranted on the effect of primary vitrectomy on visual prognosis and outcome.

simindokht_hosseini@yahoo.com