Glaucoma

PIGMENTARY DISPERSION – IS IRIDOTOMY USEFUL?

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Purpose: Pigmentary dispersion is common cause of glaucoma in young adults. There is no consensus on therapeutic approach in patients with PDS/PG. We demonstrate our experience in application of peripheral laser iridotomy (LPI) in patients with pigment dispersion and ocular hypertension.

Methods: A retrospective interventional hospital-based analysis of 40 consecutive patients with PDS and ocular hypertension and early PG, treated in specialized eye clinic for a period of six month to one year, was undertaken. All patients received anti-glaucomatous medications. LPI was applied in one or both eyes in 15 patients, with burns located in the superior third of the peripheral iris.

Results: Mean age of treated patients was 38 years (24-48 y), with women : man ratio = 4:1, Inclusion criteria consisted of: dense trabecular pigmentation, Krukenberg spindle (various degree) and increased IOP, as well as glaucomatous changes at optic disc and typical visual field loss (early to moderate 12.0 dB). Concave configuration of the iris was evident in 15 patients, and was important indication for LPI. During follow up period post LPI, iris configuration was corrected, and significant decrease of IOP, was achieved. Typical cases of successful management are demonstrated. Several pathophysiological mechanisms for the role of LPI to influence the iris configuration, and prevent reverse pupillary block are discussed.

Conclusions: LPI is beneficial for eliminating the reverse pupillary block mechanism of PDS and stabilising the iris configuration by reducing the IOP gradient between the anterior and the posterior chamber in patients with PDG.