EARLY ANATOMICAL RESULTS OF DEXAMETHASONE INTRAVITREAL IMPLANT IN DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA PATIENTS.

Almudena Moreno Martínez, S Copete Piqueras, F López Martínez, Donate Tercero, E González Aquino, C Cava Valenciano, C Blanco Marchite

Retina, Hospital Perpetuo Socorro, Spain

**Purpose:** To assess early functional outcomes of intravitreal dexamethasone implant in eyes with diabetic macular edema (DME), naïve or without adequately respond to antivascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors (AntiVEGF).

**Methods:** Retrospective real-world study conducted on consecutive DME patients who underwent treatment with a dexamethasone implant injection and were controlled at 2 months. Subjects were divided in groups: naïve patients and previously treated eyes with antiVEGF injections. Non responders were also divided in early (3 antiVEGF injections) and late (more than 3) switch. Primary endpoints were best-corrected visual acuity and complications after dexamethasone implant.

**Results:** A total of 128 eyes were finally included in the study, with a mean age of 64.07 ± 10.24 years. At baseline, there were no statistically significant differences between groups in gender, best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA), type of diabetes mellitus, DME subtype, glycated hemoglobin, state of the lens and central retinal thickness. At month 2, the BCVA (logMAR) changed from 0.4 ± 0.61 to 0.3 ± 0.37 and 0.52 ± 0.50 to 0.52 ± 0.4 in naïve and previously treated, respectively (p<0.05). 43 (33.59%) eyes developed ocular hypertension after dexamethasone implant but no statistically significant differences were observed between groups.

**Conclusions:** There were no differences in early functional response to dexamethasone implant in naïve patients versus previously treated patients.

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