FUNCTIONAL RESULTS OF DEXAMETHASONE INTRAVITREAL IMPLANT IN DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA PATIENTS

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Purpose: To assess 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, 6 and 12 months. Subjects were divided in groups: naïve patients and non-responders to previously treated eyes with antiVEGF injections. Primary endpoints were best-corrected visual acuity (BCVA), central retinal thickness (CRT) and association with diabetic retinopathy grade.

Results: A total of 128 eyes (31 naïve) were finally included in the study. At baseline, there were no statistically significant differences between gender, best-corrected visual acuity, type of diabetes mellitus, DME subtype and state of the lens. At month 2, the BCVA (logMAR) improved in both groups (p<0.05), with differences between groups. At month 6 and 12, there were no statistically significant differences in BCVA. BCVA improvements were observed within the four groups of diabetic retinopathy at month 2 with differences between groups (p<0.001). The central retinal thickness improved at month 2, 6 and 12 with differences between groups (p<0.001). There were statistically significant associations between ocular hypertension with diabetic retinopathy grade (p=0.025). Forty-eight (42.86%) eyes received one additional dexamethasone implant in the follow-up.

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