DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF OCULAR POSTERIOR SEGMENT TUMORS

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Purpose: A literature review of the important ocular posterior segment tumors.

Method: A PubMed search for English-language articles published between 1976 and 2009 was conducted. Search terms used were "intraocular", "tumors" ocular tumors- related term, and the generic names of agents commonly used to treat intraocular tumors.

Results: According to the etiologies, the ocular posterior segment tumors can be divided into three groups. The first group had systemic tumors including choroidal metastatic tumors, lymphoma, and leukemia. The second group had primary tumors including melanoma and retinoblastoma. The last group had systemic disease associated tumors including retinal hemangioblastoma associated with von Hippel-Lindau syndrome, choroidal hemangioma associated with Sturge-Weber syndrome, astrocytic hamartoma associated with tuberous sclerosis, and congenital hypertrophy of the retinal pigment epithelium (CHRPE) associated with Gardner syndrome. We highlight recent developments in diagnosing and treating each intraocular disease process.

Conclusion: Ocular posterior segment tumors are usually challenging for clinicians and require detailed differential diagnosis between other simulating lesions. Clinicians should be familiar with the management of ocular posterior segment tumors, as some might be lethal and cause blindness. Recent advances in treatment and diagnosis are helpful for early diagnosis and prompt therapy to improve the prognosis of vision and overall life quality.

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Chan-Han Foundation and Research & Development Fund of Tri-Service General Hospital (TSGH-C97-69; TSGH-C98-69; TSGH-C97-69)