

PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY AS PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR CHOROIDAL MELANOMA -- CASE REPORT

Chien-Chi Tseng, MD¹, San-Ni Chen, MD^{1,2},
Jiunn-Feng Hwang, MD^{1,2}, Chun-Ju Lin, MD^{1,2,3}

Purpose: To evaluate the efficacy of photodynamic therapy (PDT) using verteporfin on choroidal melanoma.

Methods: Interventional case report.

Result: A 61-year-old man complained of sudden onset floaters in his right eye for five days. The best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was 1.0. Ocular examination showed a melanotic choroidal melanoma over the nasal inferior area with faint overlying vitreous hemorrhage in his right eye. He was treated with three courses of photodynamic therapy. Evolution of the lesion was assessed by fundus examination, color photography, B-scan ultrasonography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The tumor regressed with scar formation after the treatment and remained stable in the one-year follow-up. The BCVA remained 1.0 and there was no distant metastasis in the follow-up period.

Conclusion: PDT may play a role in the management of choroidal melanoma; however, additional studies are needed to ascertain this conclusion.

Key words: choroidal melanoma, photodynamic therapy

INTRODUCTION

Choroidal melanoma is the most common primary intraocular malignant tumor in adults. Previous literature have described several methods for the management of choroidal melanoma, including ionizing radiotherapy (either plaque brachytherapy or charged-particle radio-

therapy), local resection, laser photocoagulation, hyperthermia, enucleation and observation.¹⁻³ Unfortunately, most of these methods have limitations, such as possible visual complications, or incomplete destruction of the tumor. However, there has been little published research on photodynamic therapy (PDT), a treatment modality using a photosensitizing agent activated by light of an appropriate wavelength. In this therapy, singlet oxygen

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¹Department of Ophthalmology, Changhua Christian Hospital, Taiwan

²School of Medicine, Chung Shan Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

³Department of Optometry, Chung Hwa University of Medical Technology, Tainan, Taiwan

Correspondence and reprint requests to: San-Ni Chen Department of Ophthalmology, Changhua Christian Hospital, 135 Nanxiao St., Changhua County 500, Taiwan.

E-mail address: 108562@cch.org.tw