

## INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS OF BEVACIZUMAB TO TREAT EXUDATIVE AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION – CORRELATION OF VISUAL ACUITY AND CENTRAL RETINAL THICKNESS

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**Introduction.** The exudative form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) causes damage to the basic features of vision such as reading, color recognition, attention to visual detail. This disease involves the subfoveal choroidal neovascularization, and then the migration of these vessels through the damaged Bruch's membrane to the macular area. The resulting fibrovascular complex, accompanied by exudation and hemorrhage, increases the thickness of the retina, while simultaneously damaging its visual function.

**Aim.** To evaluate retrospectively the treatment effectiveness for the exudative form of AMD by assessing visual acuity in correlation with the thickness of the retina.

**Materials and methods.** The study group comprised 14 patients (14 pairs of eyes) with exudative AMD treated with intravitreal injections of 1.25 mg of bevacizumab. The number of injections ranged from 3 to 8. Patients were observed during periods ranging from 3 to 11 months (mean 6.8 months).

**Results and discussion.** Corrected visual acuity before the injections ranged from 0.02 to 0.4 (mean 0.17), central retinal thickness ranged from 270  $\mu\text{m}$  to 808  $\mu\text{m}$  (mean 397.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

After the applied treatment, corrected visual acuity ranged from 0.15 to 0.7 (mean 0.34), whereas retinal thickness ranged from 179  $\mu\text{m}$  to 485  $\mu\text{m}$  (mean 270.3  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Visual acuity improved on average by 0.17 and retinal thickness decreased by 127.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Conclusions.** Intravitreal bevacizumab injections have a positive effect on stabilizing and improving visual acuity in patients with exudative AMD. Visual acuity improvement is associated with a decrease in the retinal thickness in the macular area.