CHOROIDAL THICKNESS IN MULTISYSTEMIC AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES UNDER HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE TREATMENT WITHOUT OPHTHALMOLOGIC MANIFESTATIONS

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PURPOSE To evaluate choroidal morphology and thickness in posterior pole of individuals treated with hydroxychloroquine for multysystemic autoimmune diseases and determine a correlation with duration and dose.

METHODS 150 eyes of 75 patients, without history of any ophthalmologic pathology, were included in the study. Inclusion criteria were presence of multisystemic autoimmune disease under hidroxychoroquine treatment, and duration of treatment for at least 1 year. Cumulative dose and duration of treatment were collected. Choroidal thickness was measured in the centre of the fovea and 500 µm, 1000 µm and 1500 µm of a horizontal section (nasal and temporal) using enhanced depth imaging (EDI) spectral-domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) from spectralis HRA+OCT (Heidelberg). Exclusion criteria were presence of refractive error.

RESULTS Preliminary data showed that lupus patients apparently had thicker choroid in the posterior pole. However, there were no significant changes in choroidal morphology.

CONCLUSION Choroid is a richly vascularised tissue, where autoimmune diseases may manifestate. Differences found between groups may be related to pathophysiology mechanisms subjacent to each disease. Despite hydroxychloroquine deposition in pigmented cells of eye, there were no significant choroidal alterations detected in SD-OCT in this group of individuals under treatment, except in choroidal thickness, apparently in relation with pathology.