INTRAVITREAL RANIBIZUMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHOROIDAL NEOVASCULARIZATION IN TWO PREGNANT PATIENTS

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Introduction: Anti-VEGF therapy has been proven effective in the treatment of CNV, but available information regarding its use during pregnancy is limited to anecdotal reports.

Methods: Case report of 2 patients that had CNV recurrence while pregnant. Complete ophthalmic examination and SD-OCT were obtained. Results: Both patients developed distortion during their 2nd trimester of pregnancy. One was diagnosed with myopic CNV and the other with an idiopathic CNV and both had previously undergone treatment with anti-VEGF therapy. CNV activity was based on a decrease in visual acuity (VA), fundoscopic examination and the presence of intra and/or subretinal fluid on SD-OCT. None underwent fluorescein angiography. After discussing the treatment-related risks and informed consent, each involved eye was treated with an injection of intravitreal ranibizumab, with an increase in VA and resolution of features of CNV activity. Both eyes became stable after a single injection. Fetal morphology ultrasound scan was performed and found normal before the injections in both cases and at 18 months follow-up, no evident pregnancy-related complications were identified and both infants were born full-term and found to have a healthy growth. Conclusions: CNV during pregnancy can lead to treatment dilemmas. There is limited literature and few treatment options. In our case, the treatment did not result in any apparent maternal or fetal toxicity. Ranibizumab is considered to be of pregnancy Category C by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, therefore a judicious use is recommended.