DIODE LASER-ASSISTED TRANSCANALICULAR DACRYOCYSTORHINOSTOMY: THE EFFECT OF AGE ON THE RESULTS

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Purpose: To explore the effect of age in the success of transcanalicular diode laser-assisted dacryocystorhinostomy (TCDCR). Seventy eyes of seventy patients who underwent TCDCR for the treatment of nasolacrimal duct obstruction as a primary surgery were in this retrospective, nonrandomized study. Patients were divided into two groups regarding age. Mean ages were 21.3±3.3 and 60.3±7.3 in group 1 and group 2, respectively. Records of 3rd, 6th and 12th month follow-up examinations were evaluated noting anatomic and functional outcomes. Functional success was defined as the absence of epiphora with questioning of the patient. Anatomical success was defined as the patency of the neo-ostium with irrigation. Results: At third month of follow up, 67% of cases in group 1 showed anatomic and 52% functional success. In group 2, the rates were 100% and 92%, respectively. Functional and anatomic success rates were the same for both 6th month and 12th month visits; 46% in group 1 and 76% in group 2. The results of group 2 were significantly better for all three follow-up periods (p<0.05). Conclusions: Our study clearly explored that better TCDCR results were present in elderly patients compared with the young patients. We think that the possible contributing factor seems to be diminished inflammatory response in the elderly population.