THE REGIMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF AVASTIN IN PATIENTS WITH NEOVASCULAR AMD

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Purpose: To present the treatment regiment for intravitreal administration of bevacizumab (Avastin™) in patients with neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in our hospital.

Methods: Retrospective review of patients with neovascular AMD treated with intravitreal bevacizumab (December 2006 - December 2011) at our hospital was performed. Avastin of dose of 0.05 ml (1.25mg) was applied intravitreally in surgical setting. In the first group of patients bevacizumab was administered once a month for 3 months (loading dose) and as needed thereafter; in the second group - once a month for 3 months and in series of three consecutive monthly injections as needed thereafter and in the third group - as needed after the first injection. There was no difference among groups in age, type of CNV and baseline VA. The need for re-treatment was based on VA, FA and OCT results.

Results: All together 220 patients with neovascular AMD were treated with intravitreal bevacizumab. At 12-month follow up, VA improved by 10 letters in the first group, 8 letters in the second group, and 5 letters in the third group. Randomly treated patients had worse VA results as compared to the other two groups.

Conclusions: There is no accepted protocol for administration of Avastin in AMD. The treatment regiment depends on subjective factors such as patients’ satisfaction after first injection, financial difficulties, travelling distance etc.