USE OF INTRAVITREAL DEXAMETHASONE IMPLANT (OZURDEX) PRIOR TO CATARACT SURGERY IN UVEITIC PATIENTS

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Purpose: To report the effect of preoperative use of Ozurdex implant as an anti-inflammatory treatment prior to cataract surgery in patients with chronic uveitis.

Methods: A retrospective case report of two patients.

Results: Case 1: a 44 year old male with idiopathic chronic intermediate uveitis, controlled with topical steroid drops who developed a cataract in his left eye, reducing his visual acuity to 6/20. He underwent an Ozurdex injection and one month afterwards had an uneventful cataract surgery with PCiol implantation. The patient was followed up for one year after the surgery and had neither an exacerbation of the uveitis nor evidence of macular edema. On examination one year after the surgery his visual acuity was 6/6 and there was no evidence of active uveitis. Case 2: a 66 year old woman with rheumatoid arthritis treated with Certolizumab who developed a bilateral chronic anterior and intermediate uveitis, possibly associated with Certolizumab treatment. Her uveitis was controlled with topical and periocular steroids. A cataract developed in her left eye reducing her VA to 6/30. She underwent an intravitreal Ozurdex injection and one month later had a cataract surgery with synechiolysis and PCIOL implantation. The patient did not suffer any flare-up during the following months. On examination one year after the surgery her VA was 6/8.5 with no evidence of active uveitis and evidence of ERM with mild macular thickening.

Conclusions: Intravitreal Ozurdex may serve as a perioperative anti-inflammatory treatment for uveitic patients undergoing cataract surgery.