Tip of the Month

Intravitreal steroids should be used with caution in patients with glaucoma

The Science behind the Tip

In recent years it has become common practice to inject steroids into the vitreous to reduce macular oedema or ocular inflammation. In 25 - 40% of individuals this causes a rise in intraocular pressure that peaks at 2 months and returns to normal within 4 - 6 months\(^1\). Less than 2% need intervention in the form of laser trabeculoplasty or trabeculectomy\(^1,2\). However, this hypertensive response is more likely to occur in patients with glaucoma or a family history of this condition. Other risk factors include youth, high myopia and connective tissue disease\(^3\).

The mechanism responsible for the steroid response is not known, but there is laboratory evidence to suggest that myocilin gene induction is involved\(^4\).

References