Tip of the Month

December 2018

Children using topical corticosteroids for the treatment of allergic conjunctivitis must have their intraocular pressure regularly checked

The Science behind the Tip

30-40% of the population respond to topical steroids by increasing their IOP. A steroid response is commonly found in patients with glaucoma. Other risk factors include a family history of glaucoma, diabetes and high myopia. Children are particularly susceptible to an IOP increase secondary to steroid eyedrops, with more than 60% exhibiting this response.

The reason for this phenomenon is not known, but increased resistance to aqueous outflow through an effect on the extra-cellular matrix or endothelial cells of the trabecular meshwork presumably plays a role. Children taking topical steroids for allergic conjunctivitis should have their IOP regularly checked to avoid the development of secondary glaucoma and visual loss.

References


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