Consider IOP monitoring and prophylactic treatment in patients undergoing repeat intravitreal anti-VEGF injections

The Science behind the Tip

Intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) injections are now in widespread use for a plethora of retinal diseases. It is recognised that there is a transient intraocular pressure (IOP) rise after intravitreal anti-VEGF therapy although the exact mechanism of this is unclear.

In most patients the IOP normalises but in approximately 10% patients there is a sustained pressure elevation2-4. Patients with ocular hypertension or glaucoma and patients having repeated intravitreal anti-VEGF injections appear to be more susceptible to the IOP rise and delayed recovery1-4. Repeated anti-VEGF injections may also increase the future risk of developing glaucoma or ocular hypertension3.

IOP monitoring, prophylactic measures or an adjustment in injection interval should be considered when administering repeated intravitreal anti-VEGF injections, particularly in glaucoma patients.

References

1) Bressler SB, Almukhtar T, Bhorade A. Repeated intravitreous ranimizumab injections for diabetic macular edema and the risk of sustained elevation of intraocular pressure or the need for ocular hypotensive treatment. JAMA Ophthalmol 2015; 133(5): 589-97


Contributor: Humma Shahid - Cambridge, UK