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Alternated intra-arterial and intravitreal chemotherapy: Successes and failures of advanced intraocular retinoblastoma treated without systemic chemotherapy

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Purpose: To report the efficacy of combined intravitreal chemotherapy (IViC) and intra-arterial chemotherapy (IAC) for the treatment of advanced stage retinoblastoma.

Method: The medical records of 20 patients affected by unilateral advanced retinoblastoma (Reese-Ellsworth stage Vb/D of ABC classification). After clinical and ophthalmoscopic evaluation, they underwent MRI to exclude local and CNS dissemination. The IAC was given to treat retinal masses and intravitreal injections to treat vitreous seeding. Patients had received two cycles (six infusions) of IAC and from six up to ten Melphalan injections into the vitreous, with an interval of 7-10 days between them.

Result: All patients underwent to bimonthly MRI examination, during treatment and every 3 months for 1 year after last injection, to exclude orbital dissemination. Successful control (57.8%) of tumor masses and vitreous seeds was achieved in all cases at 12 up to 60 months follow-up. No permanent complications have been reported. Transient complications disappeared throughout the months. No intraocular or orbital tumor recurrence or retinoblastoma metastases were observed.

Conclusion: Sequential IAC and IViC remains a good tool to provide retinal and vitreous seed control in advanced stage disease.

Biography

Sonia De Francesco is currently working as a Professor in the Unit of Ophthalmology in University of Siena, Italy. She has published 69 research papers.

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