

Effect of Laser Therapy in Central Serous Chorioretinopathy

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Abstract: *Background:* Central serous chorioretinopathy is a benign disease that eventually can result in vision impairment. So, we decided to examine the effect laser in central serous chorioretinopathy. *Methods:* This cross-sectional study was performed on all patients admitted to Ayatollah Rouhani Hospital of Babol, Mazandaran, in 2014 with CSCR diagnosis. Patient information such as age, sex, education, affected eye, visual acuity and central macular thickness were recorded before and after laser into the checklist. Data was entered into SPSS V22 software and analyzed using the Wilcoxon test and P value less than 0.05 was considered significant. *Results:* In this study, 42 eyes of 42 patients were studied. The mean logMAR VA before treatment was 0.92 ± 0.28 and after treatment 0.27 ± 0.22 ($p < 0.0001$). Mean central macular thickness using OCT before and after treatment was 334.86 ± 33.03 and $278.04 \pm 23.94 \mu\text{m}$, respectively ($p < 0.0001$). The mean logMAR VA before and after laser in men was respectively 0.99 ± 0.27 and $0.27 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{m}$ and in women 0.76 ± 0.23 and $0.28 \pm 0.25 \mu\text{m}$, which a statistically significant relationship was observed (respectively $p < 0.0001$ and 0.0003). The mean OCT before and after laser in men was 341.77 ± 36.21 and $281.33 \pm 23.97 \mu\text{m}$ and in women 317.58 ± 12.45 and $271.08 \pm 23.23 \mu\text{m}$, which is statistically significant relationship (respectively $p < 0.0001$ and 0.0002). *Conclusion:* Based on the results of this study, the laser can be effective in the treatment of central serous chorioretinopathy and enhancing visual acuity with reducing central macular thickness.

Key words: Central serous chorioretinopathy • CMT • Laser therapy

INTRODUCTION

Central serous chorioretinopathy is idiopathic macular detachment due to the accumulation of serous fluid in the posterior pole [1]. Almost in 95% of patients, the accumulation of fluid occurs under the sensitive retina (CSC type I), in about 3% of cases, only RPE detachment occurs (CSC type II) and in about 2% of cases, both together [2,3]. It is more common in young and middle-aged males (20-45 years). The incidence of the disease in men is 9.9 and in women 1.7 per 100 thousand people [3]. There are little information in pathogenesis of CSCR but some causes such as occlusion, ischemia, or inflammation of the internal choroid can lead to increased permeability of Choroidal vessels, secondary changes in the RPE and neurosensory retinal detachment [4-7]. Correct and timely treatment of macular edema is very important in preventing severe vision loss [8]. Photo-dynamic therapy, focal laser photocoagulation, corticosteroid antagonists, pharmacological medications such as acetazolamide, intravitreal anti-VEGF injections and laser therapy are CSCR treatments [9, 10]. Now one of the

accepted treatments is laser therapy. It seems that early treatment with laser can accelerate healing [11]. The aim of laser in macular edema is to limit vascular leakage through burning the micro aneurysms with leakage and to stimulate retinal pigmented epithelium for fluid absorption [11]. Rapid absorption of fluid within 3-4 weeks after doing laser in leakage location was observed in the majority of patients. Since CSCR is a benign disease and eventually can result in vision impairment [11]. We decided to examine the laser therapy in Central serous chorioretinopathy.

Methodology: This is a cross-sectional study in which all patients admitted to eye clinics of Ayatollah Rouhani Hospital of Babol during 2014 were studied. This research was confirmed by Ethics Committee of the Babol University of Medical Sciences. Initially, a written consent was obtained from all patients. Diagnosis of CSCR was done by retina fellowship after dilatation of pupil with tropicamide 1%, using non-contact lens diameter 78 D and confirmed with fluorescein angiography. All patients were in the acute phase, less than 3 months

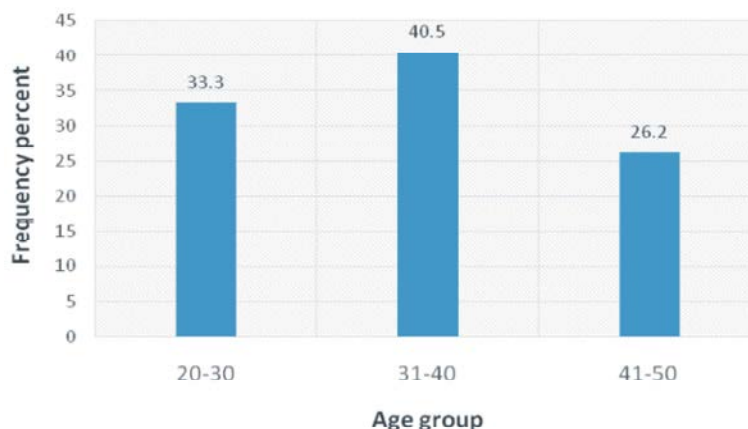


Fig. 1: The frequency distribution of different age groups

from their illness, the location of fluid leakage was out of the macular center, in form of inkblot. Patients whose diagnosis were not definite or had other ophthalmic or systemic were excluded.

All patients underwent complete ocular examination, including measurement of visual acuity with the Snellen chart and central macular thickness measurements using optic coherence tomography (OCT). In patients treated with the laser, the identified spots of leakage were shown in fluorescein angiography. Laser characteristics was: spot size 50 μ m, power 50 to 100mW, duration 50 milliseconds, so that the laser-induced site was very mild and barely visible. Visual acuity and central macular thickness were evaluated one month after treatment. Patient information such as age, sex, education, affected eye, visual acuity and central macular thickness were recorded before and after laser into the checklist. Data was entered into SPSS V22 software and analyzed using the Wilcoxon test and P value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Findings: In this study, 42 eyes suffered from CSCR of 42 patients were treated under laser therapy. The mean age of patients was 34.62 ± 7.71 years with a range of 20 to 51 years. 30 patients (71.4%) were male and 12 patients (4.6%) were female. 24 patients (57.1%) had the right eye involvement, 18 patients (42.9%) had the left eye involvement. The mean log MAR VA before treatment was 0.92 ± 0.28 and after treatment 0.27 ± 0.22 respectively in the range of 0.05-1.60 and 0-0.7 ($p < 0.0001$). Mean central macular thickness using OCT before and after treatment was 334.86 ± 33.03 and $278.04 \pm 23.94 \mu$ m, respectively ($p < 0.0001$). 15 patients (35.7%) had less than college education and 16 (38.1%) diploma and 11 (26.2%) had more than diploma. 4 patients (9.5%) were housewives,

19 (45.2%) employees and 19 (45.2%) self-employed. The age group 31-40 years had the highest frequency among patients (Figure 1).

Based on the examinations, The mean logMAR VA before and after laser in men was respectively 0.99 ± 0.27 and 0.27 ± 0.21 and in women 0.76 ± 0.23 and 0.28 ± 0.25 , which a statistically significant relationship was observed (respectively $p < 0.0001$ and 0.0003). The mean OCT before and after laser in men was 341.77 ± 36.21 and $281.33 \pm 23.97 \mu$ m and in women 317.58 ± 12.45 and $271.08 \pm 23.23 \mu$ m, which was statistically significant relationship (respectively $p < 0.0001$ and 0.0002).

DISCUSSION

Choosing an appropriate treatment for patients who suffer from a long time CSCR disease may decrease the severity of the problem. Several methods have been used to treat CSCR. Given the role of stress in causing the disease, the beneficial effects of the use of beta-blockers have been shown in limited studies [12, 13]. In addition, other medications such as acetazolamide and tranquilizers are used. Laser therapy for leakage spots reduces duration of illness. [14, 15]. Laser effect on the treatment of central serous retinopathy-related problems is undeniable. However, it is possible for some specific conditions such as macular ischemia, severe proliferation and macular edema to find other treatment methods more useful

In the present study, the prevalence of CSCR in the age group 31-40 years was higher. In study conducted by Kitzmann *et al.* [16], the incidence of CSCR in the age group 35-39 years was 21 cases per 100 thousand people, which was more than other age groups (16). The studies conducted by Yannuzzi *et al.* [7], Tittl *et al.* [17], Karadimas [18] and Chobanianin [19] were consistent with the results of our study.

In our study, the average logMAR of visual acuity was declined from 0.92 to 0.27. As a result, the visual acuity after laser therapy was improved considerably. In the study by Mastropasqual *et al.* [20], the mean logMAR VA was improved from 0.1 ± 0.3 to 0.1 ± 0.1 which is in line with our results.

Based on present results, the mean central macular thickness before treatment was $334.86 \pm 33.03 \mu\text{m}$ which was reached to $278.04 \pm 23.94 \mu\text{m}$ with a significant reduction after treatment. In the study of Mastropasqual *et al.* [20], all cases had a decrease in central macular thickness ($50.6 \pm 2.9 \mu\text{m}$).

Among the patients, CSCR of right and left eyes was observed in 24 and 18 cases. In Kitzmann [16] also studied the prevalence of CSCR in the right eye was 36 cases and the left eye in 35 cases, which is similar to the findings of our study.

In our study, male patients were more than female patients. Various studies also clearly expressed that the disease has been reported in men 6 times more than women [3]. In the studies conducted by Liew [21], Kitzmann [16] and Tsai *et al.* [22], the prevalence and incidence of CSCR in men was more than women.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study, the laser is useful in the treatment of CSCR patients and enhances visual acuity. Laser also reduces CMT by affecting the fluid absorption.

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