Protein deposits a factor in visual loss

The thickness of subfoveal protein deposits in eyes with acute central serous retinopathy (CSR) appears to have a significant impact on patients’ vision, according to a new study. In 38 patients with CSR, high-resolution spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) showed a significant correlation between the subfoveal thickness of the Protein deposit layer and visual acuity at baseline (r = 0.60, p ≤ 0.001) and upon resolution of the condition (r = 0.45, p = 0.008).

- G Landa et al, “Ophthalmologica, Quantitative and Qualitative Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography Analysis of Subretinal Deposits in Patients with Acute Central Serous Retinopathy”, 2013 (DOI:10.1159/000350231)

AMD patients maintain good social functionality and mental health

Elderly patients with bilateral age-related macular degeneration (AMD) tend to have a considerable disability in their day-to-day life but are nonetheless able to maintain a good social functionality and good mental health, according to the findings of a patient-reported outcome survey of affected patients. In their responses to the 25-item National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEIVFQ-25), their overall mean score was 57.89. In addition, in the NEIVFQ-25 subscales there were significant correlations (p ≤ 0.05) between corrected distance visual acuity and role limitations (r = -0.40), social function (r = -0.48) and mental health (r = -0.38).

- A López-Miguel et al, “Patient-Reported Outcomes in Spanish Patients Diagnosed with Bilateral Age-Related Macular Degeneration” Ophthalmologica 2013 (DOI:10.1159/000351652)

A new technique to induce posterior vitreous detachment

A simple 25-gauge microincision technique for inducing vitreous detachment in patients with macular holes appears to be effective and is possibly safer than the conventional vitrectomy approach, according to the results of a trial involving 20 patients. The technique involves suctioning the outer margin of the pre-cortical vitreous pocket with a vitreous cutter. That, in turn, creates a small break in the posterior hyaloid membrane which rapidly enlarges, resulting in a posterior vitreous detachment. In addition, a wide-angle viewing system and intravitreal injection of triamcinolone acetae are used to enhance visualisation of the vitreous cavity. The study’s authors noted that the technique enabled them to induce posterior vitreous detachments in the patients’ eyes while maintaining a good distance from the optic disc and macula.


Staining with brilliant blue G facilitates macular hole surgery

Using the stain brilliant blue G (BBG) to enhance visualisation of vitreoretinal anatomy during limiting membrane peeling in macular hole surgery may increase safety and improve the visual outcome in eyes undergoing macular hole surgery, according to the results of a retrospective study. It showed that in 20 eyes that underwent BBG-assisted macular hole surgery, there was primary macular hole closure after a single surgery in 17 and, at six months’ follow-up, mean logMAR visual acuity improved from a baseline value of 0.7 to 0.2 (p < 0.01).