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MICROPULSED TRANSCLERAL CYCLOPHOTOCOAGULATION IN GLAUCOMA MANAGEMENT: THE TUNISIAN EXPERIENCE

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Purpose: The aim of the study was to describe our experience with the novel micropulse transcleral cyclophotocoagulation (MP-TSCPC IRIDEX) in patients with advanced open angle glaucoma (OAG).

Methods: This prospective cohort included patients > 18 years old with OAG refractory to well conducted medical treatment. Cyclophotocoagulation was realized at one eye using the CycloG6™ (IRIDEX) glaucoma laser system and a micropulse P_3 probe delivering 810 nm wave length laser. Patients examination (on presentation, pre MP-TSCPC, day 1, week 1, week 2, 1 month, 3 months and 6 months after MS-TSCPC) was based on the measurement of IOP, the anterior segment examination, the structural evolution and the number of medications. The success was defined as an IOP between 6 and 21 mmHg or a reduction of IOP by 20%.

Results: The study concerned 33 patients (33 eyes). Preliminary results showed a success in 90 % of patients. The average of IOP before treatment, 1st, 7th, 15th day and 1st month was respectively 28.66 mmHg, 15 mmHg (47%),11.5 mmHg (59%),12 mmHg (57%) and 14 mmHg (50%). No patient reported severe pain. Most patients presented with mild conjunctival hyperemia. 2 patients presented a mild reaction of the anterior chamber. Only one patient has a moderate anterior chamber reaction. A severe complication was seen in one patient which was an intravitreous hemorrhage.

Conclusion: In our experience Micropulsed diode laser cyclophotocoagulation permits to diminish IOP in patients with OAG for a better control of the disease with minimal secondary effects. It seems that this is an efficient and predictable technique to help patients control glaucoma, diminish the charge of medical treatments and avoid invasive surgical interventions.