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Role of laser photocoagulation and intravitreal injection of Lucentis in the treatment of retinopathy of prematurity

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Purpose: To determine the effect of laser photocoagulation with or without intravitreal Lucentis injection in the treatment of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

Methods: 68 eyes of 34 premature babies were treated for ROP in 44 months. 54 eyes received laser. 12 eyes received laser and intravitreal Lucentis injection. 2 eyes received only intravitreal Lucentis injection.

Results: ROP regressed in 64 eyes. Four eyes progressed to stage 5 ROP in spite of all treatment.

Conclusion: Laser photocoagulation is the mainstay of treatment of ROP. However, intravitreal injection of Lucentis is important in the management of acute posterior retinopathy of prematurity (APROP) where laser photocoagulation is technically difficult to perform due to inadequate pupillary dilatation and peripheral lens vascularization in very premature babies with APROP.

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