Treatment Options of Periorbital Capillary Hemangioma of Infancy

Capillary hemangiomas often increase, sometimes significantly, during the first 6 months of life and then gradually diminish. Conservative treatment is usually best because there is a strong tendency for this kind of lesion to undergo spontaneous regression. Treatment must be considered when complications develop, such as deprivation amblyopia. All current available treatment modalities are associated with possible adverse local or systemic side effects.

In this issue, Jalil et al. are strong advocates of intralesional steroid injections for the treatment of periorbital capillary hemangiomas. However, they discuss in detail the pros and cons of this treatment modality. The authors briefly discuss the recent use of beta blockers as an alternative treatment. Although the use of oral propranolol has successfully treated hemangiomas in infants, there are associated systemic adverse effects. The application of topical timolol has been a safe and effective treatment for superficial periocular hemangiomas and may have fewer systemic effects. Further prospective studies using topical beta blockers are still needed.

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