



Anti-VEGF treatment for diabetic macular edema - a qualitative evaluation of patients experiences

Granström T^{1,2}, Leksell J^{1,2}, Forsman H¹, Granstam E³

¹ School of Health and Social Sciences, Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden. ² Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden. ³ Department of Ophthalmology, Västerås, Sweden

Conclusion

- Participants experienced worry and anxiety as well as hope and expectation after receiving oral and written information.
- Information and procedures regarding this treatment should be improved to ensure that patients will feel safer.

Introduction

Anti-VEGF treatment with ranibizumab for diabetic macular edema was approved in 2011. Ranibizumab is administered as an injection into the vitreous body of the eye. Three monthly injections are given initially and additional injections may be given if needed.

The gap of knowledge regarding this treatment is patients' experience.

Method

Qualitative semi-structured interviews with 17 participants, diagnosed with DME. Qualitative content analysis was used (Graneheim & Lundman, 2004)

Aim

To describe patients' experiences of information and preparation for anti-VGF treatment

Preliminary results

- Overall themes were *worry-anxiety* and *hope-expectation*
- Participants expressed worry and anxiety before the injections despite having received both written and verbal information.
- Participants experienced hope and expectation of being able to maintain or improve their visual acuity.

What worries me most is if I will see the needle...

I can take an injection anywhere but not in the eye...

I hope that I will be able to see a little bit better...or at least not worse...

It feels really frightening that someone is going to do something with my eyes..

Hopefully I will be able to see better then..

Clinical benefit

A large number of patients are affected by diabetes each year and may be amenable to this new treatment.

It is therefore of great importance to examine the patient's experiences of treatment and information to be able to provide the best possible information and procedures at the eye clinics.



References