ABSTRACT:

ROLE OF INTRASTROMAL VORICONAZOLE IN FUNGAL KERATITIS RESISTANT TO TOPICAL ANTIFUNGALS

Fungal corneal ulcers have become one of the common causes of blindness worldwide. The treatment of fungal keratitis has become a challenge for the ophthalmologist as penetration of topical antifungals used are generally inadequate and the patients are generally non compliant while using topical medications. To overcome these issues other intraocular routes like intrastromal and intracameral route can be tried.

PURPOSE: To study the efficacy of voriconazole administered intrastromally in twenty five smear/ culture proven resistant fungal corneal ulcer patients.

METHODS: In our study we included twenty five patients who did not respond to topical antifungals even after one week. After ruling out other causes of non healing ulcer these patients were administered intrastromal voriconazole in the dose of 50 microgram/ 0.1 ml.

RESULTS: 17 patients responded well which was evidenced by decrease in ulcer size and improvement in visual acuity. 8 patients were taken for therapeutic keratoplasty.

KEY WORDS: VORICONAZOLE, FUNGAL KERATITIS, THERAPEUTIC KERATOPLASTY, INTRASTROMAL