EuroSciCon

3rd Edition of World Congress & Exhibition on

Vascular Surgery

May 24-25, 2018
London, UK

J Vasc Endovasc Therapy 2018, Volume 3
DOI: 10.21767/2471-8084-C1-003

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF DUPLEX-GUIDED POLIDOCANOL FOAM SCLEROTHERAPY FOR VENOUS MALFORMATIONS

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The aim of our study was to report our experience regarding the safety, efficacy of duplex-guided polidocanol (POL) foam sclerotherapy on the overall status of signs and symptoms in patients with venous malformations (VMs). Thirty-seven patients with symptomatic extratruncular VMs were treated with duplex-guided POL foam sclerotherapy using Tessari's method. Twenty-five patients had limited VMs, while twelve had infiltrating VMs. Postsclerotherapy surveillance was done 6 months after the last sclerotherapy session and comprised both clinical and duplex evaluation. Clinical evaluation entailed a patient self-assessment questionnaire using a four-point scale to rate the degree of symptoms improvement as follows: disappeared, decreased, worsened, or recurred. Findings obtained by duplex scanning were divided into four groups: 1) disappeared group; 2) partially recanalized group; 3) totally recanalized group; and 4) worsened group. There were 20 males and 17 females with mean age of 22.8±5.5 years. There was a significant reduction in the total amount of POL (P=0.0037), the number of sclerotherapy sessions was significantly lesser (P=0.0019), and treatment success was significantly higher (P=0.0495) in patients with limited VMs in comparison to those with infiltrating VMs. No major complications related to sclerotherapy were encountered in both groups. Polidocanol foam sclerotherapy is effective, and safe for treatment of VMs, with high success rate and low risk of major complications. Although associated with relatively high recurrence rate compared with ethanol sclerotherapy, this can be overcome by additional treatment sessions, given the relative simplicity, speed, and safety.

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