Abstract

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE: The treatment of infantile hemangioma must address both the effectiveness of the treatment and have as few adverse events as possible for the patient as a result of the therapy. The intense pulsed light (IPL) source can be useful in this regard in treating infantile hemangioma. IPL with optimal pulse technology (OPT) represents a new generation of IPLs and in this clinical investigation, the efficacy and adverse event profiles of treating infantile hemangiomas with an IPL with OPT will be reviewed.

METHODS: A total of 62 patients with infantile hemangiomas were included in this clinical trial. The mean age of the patients was 6 months old. The Fitzpatrick skin types for those enrolled was either Type III or Type IV. Each patient was subjected to a treatment protocol which included four to five IPL treatments at 4-week intervals. The patients were then assessed at 3 months following their last IPL treatment and clinical improvement was determined by comparisons of pre- and post-therapy photographs. The parents of the patients were asked to score their overall satisfaction with the treatments.

RESULTS: From the clinical trial presented, 76% of the infantile hemangiomas were noted to improve with great satisfaction in this clinical trial. A clearance rate of more than 80% was observed. Adverse events, as a result of the IPL treatment, was minimal with less than 5% of the treatments resulting in an adverse event, all of which were noted to be transient in nature. No scarring or pigmentary disturbances were seen in any of the patients evaluated.

CONCLUSIONS: This new generation IPL with OPT can be considered a safe and effective modality for the treatment of infantile hemangioma. Marked improvement was noted in the majority of study patients and adverse events were noted to be minimal.

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