Proton Re-irradiation for Choroidal Melanomas

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Local recurrences after proton therapy for choroidal melanomas are rare, approximately 4 to 6% at 5 years. Local recurrences have a negative impact on the overall and metastatic survival rates. The type of treatment of these local recurrences varies according to the teams experiences. A new proton therapy is proposed in a certain number of cases. The criterias for choosing re-irradiation versus enucleation are not clearly detailed. A question arises: Re-irradiation is a benefit or a risk for the patient? It seems that this new treatment does not compromise the prognosis compared to enucleation in terms of overall and metastatic survival. The ocular preservation rate after a new proton therapy is 40% at 5 years and 30% of patients retain a visual acuity score ≥ 20/200, which is appreciable compared to enucleations. But it is important to verify the clinical tolerance of these second ocular conservations and quality of life studies should be carried out. After a first proton therapy for choroidal melanoma local recurrences are rare events. It would be interesting that the ophthalmic proton centers pool their results in order to determine criterias for selecting the patients who would benefit from a new proton therapy.