



New Therapeutic Tools in Diabetic Retinopathy

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Message from the Guest Editor

The prevalence of diabetes mellitus (DM) is increasing worldwide, leading to an increase in DM-related microvascular complications such as diabetic retinopathy (DR) and diabetic macular edema (DME). DR and DME are chronic and sight-threatening diseases that significantly impact on patients' quality of life. Microvascular abnormalities and occlusion due to chronic hyperglycemia are considered as the main etiologies of DR and DME, associated with various growth factors. Among these growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) causes an abnormal occlusive function of the inner blood–retinal barrier and causes the accumulation of extracellular interstitial fluid. Since anti-VEGF agents were introduced based on these mechanisms, intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF agents have replaced laser photocoagulation as the standard treatment for most patients with DME and may improve DR severity. However, due to DR being a multifactorial disease with a complex pathophysiology, there are still great efforts needed to elucidate the role of retinal microvasculature complications during the progression of DR to produce better therapeutic options and outcomes.





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