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EVALUATION OF METALLOPROTEINASE INHIBITORS IN THE TREATMENT OF INTRAOCULAR ANGIOGENESIS AND PROLIFERATION

Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the MD degree in
Ophthalmology

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سوره الشرح

Acknowledgment

First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to Allah whose magnificent help was the main factor in accomplishing this work.

I express my sincere gratitude to Professor Bothina Hassan Bondok, Professor of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University for her instructive supervision, experienced guidance and for the full revision of the text that made the completion of this work possible.

I acknowledge with much gratitude, Professor Abd El-Basset Mohammed El-Naggar, Professor of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, who supervised the details of the work, and for his highly appreciated efforts, meticulous supervision, and fatherly advice without which this thesis would not be completed.

My great thanks to Professor, Adel Abdo Selima, Professor of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine, Tanta University, for his constant encouragement, support and guidance through the accomplishment of this study.

I am greatly indebted to Professor William R Freeman, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of California, San Diego. He facilitated all the requirements to achieve our goal. His wise guidance and continuous support have enlightened the way to me through out this work. I will never forget his kind hospitality all the time.

I would like to express my thanks to Dirk Uwe Bartsch, PhD, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Optics, University of California, San Diego, for his help in the

photographic section and his guidance in the use of scanning laser ophthalmoscope during this experiment.

I also like to express my thanks to Dr. Lingyng Cheng, MD, Assistant Professor of Ocular Pathology, University of California, San Diego, for his great help in evaluation of light and electron microscopic sections of this study.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the staff members of Ophthalmology Department, Janta University, for their kind support and cooperation.

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To the soul of my mother
To the souls of my daughters
To my great wife
To my family

ABBREVIATIONS

• AMD or ARMD	Age related macular degeneration
• CAM	Chorioallantoic membrane
• CDI	Cartilage derived inhibitor
• CNV	Choroidal neovascularization
• CNVM	Choroidal neovascular membrane
• CNVPT	Choroidal neovascularization prevention trial
• D	Diopter
• ECM	Extracellular matrix
• EM	Electron microscopy
• ERG	Electroretinogram
• ERM	Epiretinal membrane
• FA	Fluorescein angiography
• FGF	Fibroblast growth factor
• Fig.	Figure
• H & E	Hematoxylin and eosin
• ICG	Indocyanine green
• IGF	Insulin growth factor
• IL	Interleukin
• IOP	Intraocular pressure
• IPM	Interphotoreceptor matrix
• IRBP	Interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein
• KDa	Kilo dalton
• LDL	Low density lipoprotein
• LM	Light microscopy
• LTA	Laser target angiography
• mm	Millimeter
• MMPi	Matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors
• MMPs	Matrix metalloproteinases
• MPSG	Macular Photocoagulation Study Group

• m-RNA	Messenger ribonucleic acid
• MT-MMP	Membrane type matrix metalloproteinase
• mw	Milliwatt
• OCT	Optical coherence tomography
• PA	Plasminogen activator
• PDEF	Platelet derived growth factor
• PDR	Proliferative diabetic retinopathy
• PDT	Photodynamic therapy
• PED	Pigment epithelium detachment
• PEDF	Pigment epithelium derived factor
• PF-4	Platelet factor 4
• POHS	Presumed ocular histoplasmosis
• PVR	Proliferative vitreoretinopathy
• RBCs	Red blood cells
• RD	Retinal detachment
• RPE	Retinal pigment epithelium
• SFD	Sorsby's fundus dystrophy
• SLO	Scanning laser ophthalmoscope
• SRF	Subretinal fluid
• SRNM	Subretinal neovascular membrane
• TAAC	Triamcinolone acetonide acetate
• TGF	Transforming growth factor
• TIMPs	Tissue inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases
• TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
• TSP	Thrombospondin
• μ	Micron
• μ l	Micro liter
• VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor



INTRODUCTION



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ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN RETINAL PIGMENT EPITHELIUM (RPE) AND CHOROID

Anatomy of RPE cells: (Fig.,1)

General topography: The human retinal pigment epithelium cells form a single layer formed of hexagonal shaped cuboidal cells of neuroectodermal origin.⁽¹⁾ The RPE cells begin at the edge of the optic nerve head and extend peripherally to the ora serrata. Anterior to the ora serrata, the RPE continues as the pigment epithelium of the pars plana. The RPE has Bruch's membrane as its basal border, with the blood supply derived from the subjacent choriocapillaries. At its apex, the RPE cells are in intimate contact with the outer segments of the photoreceptor cells. The RPE cells are tightly packed against one another with little extracellular space between neighboring cells.⁽²⁾

In cross sections, the RPE cell varies in shape, depending on its age and location within the eye. In young adults, the RPE cells tend to be tall (14 μm) and somewhat narrow (10 μm) at the posterior pole, whereas at the ora serrata the cells are flatter and wider (60 μm) and have a cuboidal configuration. In the intervening equatorial zone, the RPE cells have their greatest variation in size and shape, compared with the posterior pole and ora serrata region. The total number of RPE cells per human eye can vary from 4.2 to 6.1 million. RPE cells have brown color, owing to their melanin granules. Within the macular zone, histological observations confirm the fact that the RPE cells are taller and contain more melanin than RPE cells elsewhere. This accounts, in part, for the clinical observation that the macula has a darker appearance than the retinal tissue elsewhere. Also contributing to this color difference is the yellow pigment xanthophyll glycol, located in the Henle's layer of the macula, which also acts as a filter during fluorescein angiography.⁽³⁾

Retinal pigment epithelium cell boundaries:

(a) Apical surface:

The apical surface of RPE faces the subretinal space, in which the outer segments of the photoreceptor cells (rods and cones) are located. The apical surface of RPE is