Summary

Objectives: The objectives are to analyze the main echographic indications and to know the most frequent echographic findings in the uveitis according to its anatomo-topographic classification, etiology, clinical evolution and prognostic.

Material and method: A retrospective, observational and descriptive study took place in the ocular echographic department of the "Instituto Hilton Rocha" - Brazil, in the period between January 1st, 1994 and July 30, 2000. 89 pacients with uveitis were studied (97 echographic exams) and they were sent to the echographic service by the uveitis department.

Results: The main echographic indications were: diagnostic complementation and vitreous opacity in posterior uveitis and posterior synechiae in the panuveitis. The most frequent echographic findings in the posterior uveitis were: intravitreous punctiform echoes, thickened posterior hyaloids, partial or total detachment of the posterior vitreous, punctiform retrohyaloideous echoes, focal chorioretinal thickening. Whereas in the panuveitis were: intravitreous punctiform echoes, partial or total PVD and thickened posterior hyaloids. It should be emphasized the vitreouschisis echographic detention in uveitis. The punctiform intravitreous echoes frequently occurred in all evolutions, the partial PVD occurred more frequently in acute and chronic evolutions, the total PVD and the focal chorioretinal thickening occurred more in the recurring-chronical evolution. In the toxoplasmosis the most frequent findings were: intravitreous punctiform echoes, thickened posterior hyaloids, total or partial PVD, focal chorioretinal thickening. It should be emphasized a significant association (p=0,011) of the focal chorioretinal thickening with the toxoplasmosis occurring only in acute or recurring-chronical evolutions, which suggests that this finding helps in its diagnostic. The analysis of the echography value in the determination of toxoplasmosis is not significative (0,494), which suggests that the echography has a relative value.

In the toxocariasis the most frequent findings were: granulomatous lesions, vitreous membranes and intravitreous punctiform echoes, the result is significative (p<0,001), what suggests that the echography B has great value in its diagnostic. In the Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome the main findings were: intravitreous punctform echoes, absence of partial or total PVD, diffuse choroidal thickening which association is significant (p=0,010), serous retinal detachment and escleral thickening, being these associations significative (p=0,050), which suggests that the echography B has great value in this syndrome. In the acute retinal necrosis and in the pars planitis the results suggests that the echography does not offer great contribution to the etiologic diagnostic.

The results suggests that the chronic panuveitis of indetermined etiology represents a worse diagnostic, and this is suggested echographically by the appearance of alterations such as: decreasing of the antero-posterior diameter, thickening of diffuse choroids and retinal detachment.

Conclusions: the results show a great value of ecography as a complementary examination method in the uveitis, with the advantage of: easy execution, low cost and being the only method for evaluating the choroidal thickening.