Ocriplasmin for vitreomacular traction

Information for the public
Published: 1 October 2013
nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Ocriplasmin is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with an eye condition called vitreomacular traction who also have:

- no epiretinal membrane (a thin layer of scar tissue over their retina, the light-sensitive area at the back of the eye) and
- a hole (up to 400 micrometers) in the centre of their retina or
- severe sight problems.

What does this mean for me?

If you have vitreomacular traction, and your doctor thinks that ocriplasmin is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Ocriplasmin should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

Ocriplasmin was recommended because the cost was justified by the benefits it provided.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.
The condition and the treatment

As people get older the jelly-like material inside the eye shrinks. Vitreomacular traction happens when this jelly-like material sticks to the macula (the centre of the light-sensitive area at the back of the eye), pulling on it and sometimes tearing a hole. This can cause loss of vision, in particular the ability to see straight ahead, or distorted vision (for example, straight lines appear wavy).

Ocriplasmin (also known as Jetrea) helps to separate the jelly-like material from the macula and close any holes. It is a one-off treatment, given by injection into the eye after a local anaesthetic.

Sources of advice and support

- Fight for Sight, 020 7264 3900
  www.fightforsight.org.uk

- Macular Society, 01264 350551
  www.macularsociety.org

- Royal National Institute of Blind People, 0303 123 9999
  www.rnib.org.uk

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

ISBN 978-1-4731-0335-1