

## **Patient Expert Statement for use of Velcade in the treatment of Multiple Myeloma**

In December 2005 my clinicians assessment of the progress of my myeloma was disturbing, the paraprotein levels were at 30+ and the only option was for a course of Velcade. Early 2006(JAN) I embarked on the drug and after 1 course the level of paraprotein had dropped to 15 .I subsequently had 4 more courses of Velcade, by May my level was 1.5 and it was decided to stop any further courses and by July I was in total remission. The efficacy of Velcade therefore stands alone, without further comment. My current position is that the paraprotein level is low and stable.

From July 2006 my quality of life was at a normal level, consistent with someone of my age , and my family life was back to a state pre diagnosis..This quality of life is difficult to quantify in financial terms, and I am sure that any one who was put in a similar position would not count cost as one of the overriding factors in a life threatening situation. However we live in a financial world and we must be realistic but allowing patients to “try” Velcade must be allowed. Without that opportunity to try this treatment I would not be in the condition I am today, with a new and insatiable appetite for life.

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