

Aflibercept injection for treating wet age-related degeneration

Information for the public

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www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends aflibercept injection as a possible treatment for some people with wet age-related macular degeneration.

Who can have aflibercept injection?

You should be able to have aflibercept injection as long as it is used in the same way that NICE recommends that ranibizumab (another drug for wet age-related macular degeneration) is used in its guidance Pegaptanib and ranibizumab for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (see <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA155>)

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have wet age-related macular degeneration, and you and your doctor think that aflibercept injection is the right treatment for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

If you are not eligible for treatment, you should be able to continue taking aflibercept injection until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work, and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS. NICE recommended aflibercept because it works about as well as ranibizumab and the differences in the total costs were very small.

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

Wet age-related macular degeneration

Macular degeneration affects the eye. Because it is usually seen in older people it is also known as 'age-related macular degeneration' (sometimes shortened to AMD).

There are 2 types of age-related macular degeneration – 'dry' and 'wet'. In both types of age-related macular degeneration part of the back of the eye, called the macula, is damaged. This causes sight loss, in particular the ability to see straight ahead and to see detail. Wet age-related macular degeneration develops when abnormal blood vessels start growing at the back of the eye and bleed.

Aflibercept injection

Aflibercept (also known as Eylea) is given by injection into the eye.

It works by blocking the substances that stimulate the growth of the abnormal blood vessels at the back of the eye.

Sources of advice and support

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with age-related macular degeneration.

- Fight for Sight, 020 7264 3900
www.fightforsight.org.uk
- Macular Society, 01264 350551
www.macularsociety.org
- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), 0303 123 9999
www.rnib.org.uk

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

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

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Accreditation

