

Aflibercept injections for sight problems caused by macular oedema from central retinal vein occlusion

Information for the public

Published: 1 February 2014

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What has NICE said?

Aflibercept injections are recommended as a possible treatment for people with sight problems caused by macular oedema from central retinal vein occlusion.

What does this mean for me?

If you have sight problems caused by macular oedema from central retinal vein occlusion, and your doctor thinks that aflibercept injections are the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

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

Why has NICE said this?

Aflibercept injections were recommended because they work as well as other treatments available on the NHS and the costs are justified by the benefits they provide.

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

The macula is the central part of the retina at the back of the eye. When a retinal vein becomes blocked (retinal vein occlusion) blood can leak into the macula causing it to swell. This is known as macular oedema and can affect sight. There are 2 types of blockage depending on which part of the vein is blocked: central or branch retinal vein occlusion.

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.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Fight for Sight, 020 7264 3900
www.fightforsight.org.uk
- Macular Society, 0300 3030 111
www.macularsociety.org
- Organisation of Blind African Caribbeans, 020 7735 3400
www.obac.org.uk
- RNIB, 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 0449-5

Accreditation

