Northern Treatment Advisory Group

Northern (NHS) Treatment Advisory Group

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	25th November 2014
Appraisal & Details	Verteporfin (Visudyne®) with photo-dynamic therapy (PDT) outside of its product license for the treatment of chronic central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR): updated appraisal.
Recommendation	**The Northern Treatment Advisory Group endorses the previously agreed NETAG decision i.e. that Verteporfin (Visudyne®) PDT is not recommended for use for the treatment of chronic CSCR.** The group considered that the evidence base for verteporfin in chronic CSCR was still of an experimental nature and there is not sufficient data to support clinical use. Individual patients in exceptional circumstances may be suitable for treatment e.g. patients with poor sight in the other eye. Such cases must be referred via local individual funding request mechanisms.
Clinical evidence summary	Approximately seventeen trials have been published which assess the patient orientated outcome of visual acuity since the previous review. However all are relatively small (9 had 25 patients or fewer) and there is considerable heterogeneity between trials in terms of the treatment regimen used (varying doses of verteporfin and fluence have been used, and patients have been treated at a wide variety of stages of disease). There is also considerable variation between trials in severity of disease, from an average of “mild vision loss” in some studies to “severe vision loss” in others. In several studies, improvements which are statistically but not clinically significant are reported The group was also not clear as to where verteporfin would fit within existing treatment pathways.
Safety	No new or unexpected safety concerns arose in studies of verteporfin in CSCR.
Patient Perspective	Patient impact is very difficult to quantify. It is self-evident that loss of vision, typically in middle-age, will be distressing, and may have important occupational and economic implications. It is not clear what impact treatment with verteporfin PDT will have for patients. There are only a handful of cases in which return to pre-morbid visual acuity is reported. The long-term effects of treatment are not yet described, but it is clear that recurrence remains a strong possibility.
Cost analysis summary	Considerable uncertainty surrounds any estimate of the costs associated with this treatment: incidence of the condition is unclear; likelihood of recurrence and re-treatment is unclear.. Verteporfin, as Visudyne®, costs £1020 per vial (incl VAT). In addition to the cost of the drug, it is assumed that a day-case admission is required for administration by intravenous infusion followed by laser therapy. Thus, the total cost of one treatment episode is around £1360.
Financial impact **PbR: excluded**	Estimates suggest that this treatment may be suitable for around 30 patients per year. Therefore the cost of introducing this treatment would be within the region of ~£50,000 per annum. As the group has opted not to change the previous NETAG recommendation no significant change in costs is expected.