

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	7 th July 2009		
Appraisal	Pre-operative use of anti-vascular endothelial growth factor agents prior to vitrectomy for patients with diabetic retinopathy		
Details	An application for the use of bevacizumab or ranibizumab administered by intravitreal injection three to ten days prior to vitrectomy for proliferative diabetic retinopathy was received from the regional ophthalmology team		
Recommendation	The group does not recommend pre-vitrectomy use of aVEGF therapy.		
Clinical evidence summary	The group considered that the evidence base was not sufficiently robust to support the introduction of an additional phase of treatment in this scenario. The group was concerned that the optimal interval for the period between drug administration and surgery has not been properly investigated or determined.		
Cost analysis summary	The group noted that the financial implications of treatment are relatively modest based on the estimated annual number of patients. However there was no independent verification of this estimate, and there is potential for the number of patients and scope for treatment to expand, resulting in an increased financial burden.		
Financial impact	PCT	% relevant patient population	Estimated annual cost based on use of bevacizumab
	County Durham	19.9%	£4,624
	Darlington	3.8%	£1,156
	Gateshead	7.6%	£2,312
	Hartlepool	3.6%	£1,156
	Middlesbrough	5.6%	£1,734
	Newcastle	10.2%	£2,890
	North Tees	7.4%	£1,734
	North Tyneside	8.0%	£2,312
	Northumberland Care	12.2%	£2,890
	Redcar & Cleveland	5.2%	£1,734
	South Tyneside	5.9%	£1,732
Sunderland Teaching	10.7%	£2,890	
Further research or information	The group recommends that treatment with aVEGF therapy prior to vitrectomy should only occur within the confines of an appropriate study.		

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