

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	10 th July 2012
Appraisal	Bevacizumab (Avastin®) for diabetic macular oedema
Details	The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group was requested to re-appraise bevacizumab (Avastin®) for the treatment of diabetic macular oedema in light of NICE not having recommended ranibizumab (Lucentis®) for the same indication.
Recommendation	<p>The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group does not recommend bevacizumab (Avastin®) for diabetic macular oedema.</p> <p>The group was concerned about the quality of clinical evidence supporting bevacizumab in DMO and in particular evidence relating to the durability of treatment effects.</p>
Clinical evidence summary	<p>The group considered the evidence of the previous appraisal which included bevacizumab for DMO (October 2010). The group was disappointed that the additional clinical evidence was of a similar low methodological quality. In addition, the group noted substantial variations in the evaluated treatment and monitoring regimens and a general paucity of longer-term data.</p> <p>The group acknowledged that intravitreal bevacizumab represents use of the drug outside of its product license and duly considered the pertinent issues which this presents.</p>
Cost analysis summary	The group noted the cost of intravitreal bevacizumab relative to existing treatment options, particularly laser therapy. The group noted that the majority of the cost of intravitreal bevacizumab originates from admission costs and that the drug cost is a minor component. The group noted considerable uncertainty regarding dose frequency regimen, frequency of follow-up, or monitoring, appointments, and the overall duration of therapy. Compared with laser therapy, the group considered that bevacizumab would likely increase overall treatment costs.
Financial impact	The NHS North East prevalent patient population was estimated at between about 1,300 and 3,800 patients
PbR: Excluded	Cost impact across NHS North East was estimated at up to £8 million per annum over four years based on a specific treatment regimen.
Further research or information	

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