

Treatment Appraisal: Decision Summary

Date	13 th November 2012
Appraisal	Intraocular telescope by VisionCare™ for age-related macular degeneration
Details	The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group was requested to conduct an appraisal of and issue a recommendation regarding the intraocular telescope by VisionCare™ in the management of age-related macular degeneration.
Recommendation	<p>The NHS North East Treatment Advisory Group does not recommend the intraocular telescope by VisionCare™ for age-related macular degeneration.</p> <p>The group was concerned about the longer-term efficacy and safety in the target patient group and considered that the cost-effectiveness of the intervention had not been adequately demonstrated.</p>
Clinical evidence summary	<p>The group recognised that the intraocular telescope had been evaluated in a reasonably robust study with up to two years follow-up however outcomes were measured against a patient's untreated eye and not against visual function supported with low-vision therapy. The group noted the substantial gains in visual acuity although this was at the expense of decreased peripheral vision in the implanted eye. The group noted some limited evidence for outcomes in the longer-term.</p> <p>The group considered that the adverse effect profile appeared to be acceptable in the short-term although the absence of longer-term safety outcomes was a drawback.</p>
Cost analysis summary	<p>Each device costs £10,000 and associated healthcare costs for screening, implantation, post-operative care and rehabilitation were estimated at about £3,000 per patient. An analysis demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of the device was considered to be unreliable.</p> <p>Low-vision therapy was estimated to cost £160 per patient per annum.</p>
Financial impact	The estimated patient volume derived from within NHS North East was 80 patients per annum, therefore annual treatment costs were estimated at a minimum of £1 million. The proposed service provider had indicated their intention to perform 24 implantations before conducting a review and audit of the service.
PbR: Excluded	
Further research or information	

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