

Brachytherapy for wet Age related macular degeneration

This is a treatment for wet Age related macular degeneration that has been undergoing research and recently been discussed in the newspapers.

Radiotherapy for wet Age related macular degeneration is not new. Trials of external and internal radiotherapy have been done for years and generally not something that has been as successful as the clinical trials of the anti-VEGF. Thus not something that is generally undertaken.,

This new approach is using very focused and local radiotherapy aimed at reducing the growth of the blood vessels in wet Age related macular degeneration. It involves an operation called pars plana vitrectomy and intraocular (into the eye) delivery of 24 grey irradiation to the area of wet Age related macular degeneration. Trials have been positive not as a sole treatment but as a combined treatment with Anti-VEGF drugs like Lucentis (Ranibizumab). It appears to reduce the number of injections needed. However it is early days and the treatment is not as yet readily available. Tim Jackson at Kings college hospital has been leading the UK side of the trials. (CARBENT and MERLOT). We await more details on the trial results.

Who should have this treatment and where.

These are questions that I am currently asking. I am not clear if this treatment is something to recommend to patients or not. These are topics that are currently being undertaken. Slowly new treatments for Wet Age related macular degeneration are being launched with Eyelea (aflibercept) launched in November 2012 in Europe.

Nice reviewed the technology in 2011 and below is the statement.

Epiretinal brachytherapy for wet age related macular degeneration (IPG415)

Guidance issued

Full Guidance



Information for the public

The summary of the published interventional procedure on Epiretinal **brachytherapy** for wet age related macular degeneration. It links to the published guidance and key documents.

[View the summary and implementation tools](#)

14 December 2011

1 Guidance

1 Guidance 1.1 Current evidence on the efficacy of epiretinal **brachytherapy** for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is inadequate and limited to small numbers of patients. With regard to safety, vitrectomy has well-recognised complications

2.4 Safety

2.4 Safety 2.4.1 The case series of 34 patients treated by epiretinal **brachytherapy** plus anti-VEGF injections reported that 25% (6/24), 50% (12/24) and 54% (7/13) of phakic eye patients developed cataracts at follow-up periods of 12, 24

2.3 Efficacy

2.3 Efficacy 2.3.1 A case series of 34 patients treated by epiretinal **brachytherapy** (concomitant treatment not described) reported that 63% and 50% of patients receiving 24 Gy and 15 Gy of radiation respectively gained 1 or more letters

2012