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NICE says yes to eye condition treatment in final guidance

NICE has published [final guidance recommending ocriplasmin](#) (Jetrea, ThromboGenics) as an option for treating some people with the rare eye condition, vitreomacular traction.

Vitreomacular traction occurs when the vitreous, the gel-like substance in the eye, pulls abnormally on the retina, the light-sensitive layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye, which is responsible for processing visual images. The pulling of the gel disturbs the retina, causing swelling and distorted vision, and sometimes a hole in the macular area. It can occur as a result of ageing.

NICE has **recommended ocriplasmin** as an option for treating vitreomacular traction in adults, only if an epiretinal membrane is not presentⁱ, and they have a stage II macular holeⁱⁱ (full thickness with a diameter of 400 micrometres or less) and/or they have severe symptoms.

Professor Carole Longson, Health Technology Evaluation Centre Director at NICE said: "Vitreomacular traction is a serious eye condition, which can lead to loss of vision in the long run. Ocriplasmin injection represents a new and welcome option for patients with this condition and their clinicians, as it provides an alternative to 'watch and wait' and/or surgery. NICE is pleased to recommend ocriplasmin as an option for this condition in final guidance."

The final guidance can be found from **00:01hrs on Wednesday 23 October 2013** on the [NICE website](#).

This is NICE's final guidance on this technology and now replaces local recommendations across the country.

Ends