

Intravitreal bevacizumab for radiation maculopathy

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of bevacizumab intravitreal injection is accepted in Devon for the management of radiation maculopathy. The decision to offer bevacizumab intravitreal injection is at the discretion of the treating clinician. The patient must be made fully aware that bevacizumab intravitreal injection is an unlicensed product and give informed consent to its use.

Rationale for the decision

Bevacizumab intravitreal injection is recommended by an NHS specialist ocular oncology centre for the management of radiation maculopathy; a complication of irradiation of the eye and the surrounding area which results in distorted vision and loss of visual acuity. Bevacizumab is a vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitor (anti-VEGF). There is a biological basis for its use in the management of radiation maculopathy.

Ocular cancer is a rare condition. No randomised controlled trials were identified for intravitreal bevacizumab for radiation maculopathy. Two small published prospective case series have shown that regular dosing of bevacizumab at the start of treatment followed by further injections, as required, stabilised or improved visual acuity in the majority of patients. Similar findings were reported in retrospective reviews of medical records of consecutive patients receiving intravitreal bevacizumab and a small study of an alternative anti-VEGF drug.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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