Loteprednol (Lotemax®) for the treatment of steroid responsive inflammatory eye conditions

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of loteprednol (Lotemax®) is accepted in Devon for the treatment of steroid responsive inflammatory eye conditions in patients who have a known clinically significant rise in intraocular pressure with other steroid eye drops. Loteprednol does not have a UK product licence for the treatment of steroid responsive inflammatory eye conditions and the patient must be made fully aware of the unlicensed nature of the treatment and the rationale for its proposed use.

Rationale for the decision

Patients with inflammatory eye conditions such as uveitis and vernal keratoconjunctivitis often require long term or frequent courses of steroid eye drops.

Prolonged use of steroid eye drops may cause an increase in intraocular pressure (IOP) in some patients. In patients who have experienced clinically significant rises in IOP on first line steroid treatment, loteprednol offers an alternative which may result in a lower rise in IOP in some individuals and permit continued treatment with topical steroid drops. Loteprednol (Lotemax®) is not commissioned as a first line option as the evidence that it has a meaningfully lower incidence of raised IOP is of poor quality and loteprednol is more expensive than alternative first line options.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

This general policy does not replace clinical judgement on the appropriate treatment of an individual patient.

Date of publication:	Version:
24.01.2020	Policy agreed by NHS Devon CCG Policy adopted by NHS Devon ICB on 01.07.2022