

**Thames Valley Priorities Committees
Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes Priorities Committee**

Policy Statement: Photodynamic therapy (PDT) for age-related macular degeneration

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ref TV

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The Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes Priorities Committee makes the following recommendation regarding Photodynamic therapy (PDT) for age-related macular degeneration: PDT should only be used in accordance with the recommendations in NICE TA68. The use of PDT with verteporfin for occult CNV is not recommended outside of clinical trials.

PDT should only be considered for confirmed diagnoses of classic with no occult subfoveal choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) (that is, whose lesions are composed of classic CNV with no evidence of an occult component) and best-corrected visual acuity 6/60 or better. PDT should be carried out only by retinal specialists with expertise in the use of this technology.

PDT is not recommended for the treatment of people with predominantly classic subfoveal CNV (that is, 50% or more of the entire area of the lesion is classic CNV but some occult CNV is present) associated with wet age related macular degeneration, except as part of ongoing or new clinical studies that are designed to generate robust and relevant outcome data, including data on optimum treatment regimens, long-term outcomes, quality of life and costs.

The use of PDT in occult CNV associated with wet age-related macular degeneration and the use of verteporfin is not recommended outside of clinical trials

This statement will be reviewed in light of new evidence or further guidance from NICE

(Supporting reference paper available)

References

1. NICE TA68 2003, NICE guidelines, Cochrane review 2005 ISSN 1464-780X
<http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=TA068guidance>