

Ranibizumab in Retinal Vein Occlusion

Case study A

46 year old man from London.

From symptoms to seeking medical help

Mr A works with handheld computers in his place of employment and he first noticed problems with his vision in May 2010 when he found that he was struggling to read the text on the computer screens. His vision deteriorated until he was having to ask colleagues to read text aloud to him as he could not read the words at all. This was the case even though it turned out that he had retinal vein occlusion in one eye only. He visited his Optician and was subsequently referred to the Hospital where a diagnosis was made and he began receiving regular laser treatment. Mr A's sight continued to deteriorate and he was then offered participation in the trial of Lucentis in macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion. He initially turned down the trial because of the thought of having a needle injected into his eye. However, when his eye sight failed to improve he decided to opt for the procedure.

Hospital treatment

Mr A found the procedure extremely unpleasant as he doesn't like needles and found the fact that he was awake and could see and hear the procedure unnerving. He also found it hard to relax during the tests beforehand as he kept thinking about the actual procedure involving the needle.

Advantages of the treatment

Mr A has noticed a significant improvement in his vision which has enabled him to continue working as he can once again read text and use hand held computers. He feels more independent at work as he doesn't have to rely on colleagues to read aloud to him. At home he has been able to enjoy everyday activities such as reading for pleasure which he hadn't been able to do since his diagnosis.

Disadvantages of the treatment

Mr A found that the actual procedure was an unpleasant experience. The night after and for the next few days the eye looked raw, was watery, unpleasant and sore and it was upsetting for his partner to look at his eye. But this disappeared within a few

days. However, despite this he continued the treatment as he felt that the improvements outweighed the unpleasantness and on balance he was very positive about the outcome.