Response to Interim Guidance – Vedolizumab for Ulcerative Colitis

I am pleased that the interim guidance for Vedolizumab has recommended this as a treatment option for Ulcerative Colitis.

However, I am very concerned that patients who did not previously respond to a TNF- alpha inhibitor are to be prohibited from receiving Vedolizumab.

I was previously treated with a TNF- alpha inhibitor (Infliximab) and I did not respond to this. I am currently being treated with Vedolizumab and have been on this treatment for the past six years.

I have responded to Vedolizumab and it has kept me in (steroid-free) remission for the entire past six years. Therefore, it is clearly evident that there is no logic to the interim guidance.

Not having a response to, or losing response to previous treatment with a TNF-alpha inhibitor does not necessarily have any connection with what may happen with Vedolizumab. As my case clearly shows.

I was diagnosed with severe pan-Ulcerative Colitis. It proved to be treatment-refractory and I was steroid dependent. The TNF - alpha inhibitor Infliximab failed to work. Vedolizumab did work.

I do not believe there is enough evidence to justify excluding an entire cohort of Ulcerative Colitis sufferers on the (incorrect) judgement that Vedolizumab would not work.

These patients will ultimately end up requiring surgery. A huge financial burden on the NHS, as well as having a significant detrimental effect on many aspects of their lives.

This clause needs to be removed from the guidance until further and proper investigations can take place.

[redacted]
26 November 2014