

Ciclosporin for treating dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with artificial tears

Information for the public

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www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Ciclosporin (Ikervis) is recommended as a possible treatment for people with dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with artificial tears.

What does this mean for me?

If you have severe dry eye disease that has not improved despite treatment with artificial tears, and your doctor thinks that ciclosporin is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Ciclosporin should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

Why has NICE said this?

Ciclosporin was recommended because it works about as well and costs about the same as other ciclosporin formulations available on the NHS.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment(s)

Dry eye disease (also called dry eye syndrome and sometimes 'keratitis') is a common condition in which a person's eyes don't make enough tears, or their tears evaporate too quickly. This leads to the eyes drying out and becoming red and swollen.

Severe dry eye disease can cause blurred vision and a feeling of grittiness in the eye. If untreated, it can sometimes cause blindness.

It is most often treated with artificial tears (also called tear substitutes) and drugs to reduce any swelling.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), 0303 123 9999, www.rnib.org.uk.

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Accreditation

