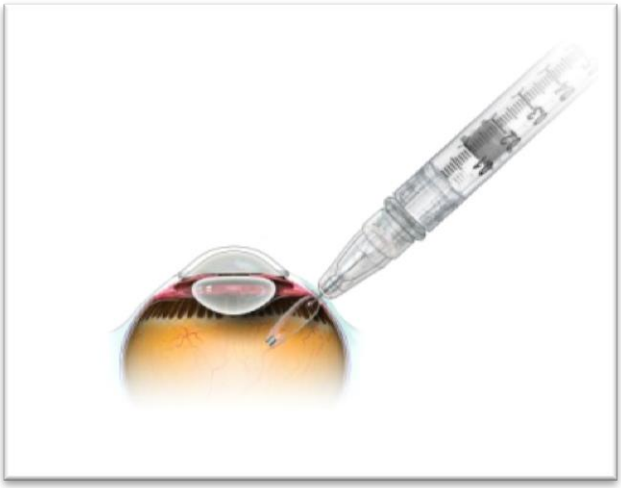
AMD.org
Macular Degeneration Partnership

A New Delivery System for Treatment of Wet AMD

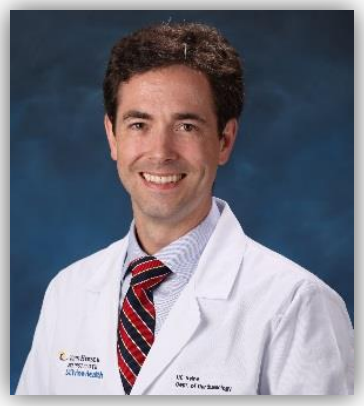
At a July meeting of retina specialists, preliminary results from a sponsored research study were disclosed. Genentech, a division of Roche, is the maker of Lucentis (Ranibizumab). A Phase II clinical trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of Genentech's Port Delivery System (PDS) for treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The PDS is a small, refillable eye implant, the size of a grain of rice, which is implanted in the conjunctiva, the clear covering of the eye behind the eyelids, where it will not affect vision, and will slowly release anti-VEGF medication.

The PDS will contain a long-acting concentration of medication similar to Lucentis which can be refilled by the doctor using a special needle. The patients enrolled in this study tested three different dosages, including groups of patients who received 100, 40, and 10 mg/mL. Each of the groups was able to extend the time of the drug's effectiveness over several months.



80% of the patients in the 100 mg/mL group, 71.3% of those in the 40 mg/mL group and 63.5% of subjects enrolled in the 10 mg/mL were able to go six months before their first refill of medication was required.

Many patients now return to their eye doctor for intravitreal injections on a monthly or bimonthly basis. To be able to extend the treatment by several months will make a big difference. Dr. Andrew Browne, MD of Gavin Herbert Eye Institute applauded these results, "**While a slow release anti-VEGF implant is not a paradigm shift in AMD treatment, it is a step toward reducing the burden for patients who require frequent and repeated anti-VEGF treatments.**"



Doctors are quick to point out that the PDS does not represent a cure for AMD; but a new delivery method may improve quality of life for AMD patients and their caregivers. The review of the data and final publication of the study results should take place in 2019. We look forward to learning more.