



Leaders in Eye Care

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## **Patient Information for VISUDYNE THERAPY (PDT) (verteporfin for injection)**

### **Before Treatment**

Visudyne therapy is a treatment for the wet, or neovascular, form of AMD. It uses a combination of photoactive drug (a light-activated drug) and light from a non-thermal laser (A laser that does not burn the retina).

After administration of Visudyne therapy, your skin and eyes will be photosensitive. As a precaution, avoid direct sunlight and bright lights for five days.

### **At Home:**

Be sure that if you are near a window in your home during daylight, you have curtains or shades to block out **direct** sunlight.

### **Bring to the doctor's office:**

Dark Sunglasses  
Gloves  
Wide-Brimmed hat  
Long-sleeved shirt and slacks that are comfortable

### **During Treatment**

- You will be given an infusion of the light-activated drug Visudyne.
- 15 minutes after the start of the Visudyne infusion, light from a laser will activate the drug within the abnormal blood vessels, which will stop their growth. Since the type of laser used in Visudyne therapy is non-thermal, meaning no heat is involved, it will not burn.
- Your doctor will numb your eye with eye drops, and then place a special contact lens on the eye.
- A laser light will then be directed through the contact lens onto the affected area of the retina.
- The light is applied for 83 seconds.

### **After Treatment**

Your skin and eyes will be sensitive to bright light.

- As a precaution, avoid exposure to direct sunlight or bright light for five days.

Bright light includes but is not limited to:

- Bright sunlight
- Tanning salons

## Visudyne Therapy Patient Information con't.-

- Halogen lighting in homes and offices (including bright halogen reading lamps, etc.)
- Lighting used in dentist's office, or in surgery operation room.

***You should not stay in the dark. In fact, exposing your skin to indoor light helps to inactivate the drug in the skin.***

## Avoid Exposure to Direct Sunlight for Five Days

- If possible, wait until sundown to do outside chores (such as shopping).
- UV sunscreens are **not** effective in protecting against photosensitivity reactions.
- You should not stay in the dark. Exposing your skin to indoor light helps to inactivate the drug in the skin.
- After five days, you may resume normal outdoor activities without any special precautions.

## If you go out during daylight hours within the first five days, WEAR:

- Long-sleeved shirt and slacks
- Preferably, tight-knit, light colored fabrics
- Gloves
- Socks and shoes
- Sunglasses
- Wide-brimmed hat

## Patient Follow-Up

### Every Three Months:

1. Your vision will be checked.
2. A Fluorescein angiogram (the dye exam) and pictures will be taken to determine whether retreatment is recommended.
3. Another Visudyne treatment may be given if your physician believes it would be beneficial.

## Doctor's Information

***Important information for family members and doctors in case of emergency.***

Name of Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph#: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Visudyne Therapy?

A beneficial aspect of Visudyne therapy is the fact that it can destroy the abnormal blood vessels without causing thermal (heat) damage to the overlying sensory retina. Unlike other AMD treatments, Visudyne therapy may work toward stabilizing vision. In other words, this treatment may confine and inhibit the progression of wet AMD, and thereby preserve patients' vision.

Visudyne may not stop vision loss in all patients. Adverse reactions to Visudyne therapy may include: skin reactions at the injection site, blurred vision, or vision defects. 2.2% of Visudyne patients had back pain related to infusion. Severe vision decrease occurred in 1% to 4% of patients. Your doctor should be consulted if any of these conditions exist after Visudyne treatment.

Check with your doctor to see if you might have sensitivity to any component of Visudyne therapy, or to see if there is any reason why you should not be treated with Visudyne therapy.