

10 December 2015

**Recommendation of the Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland**  
**The treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration with bevacizumab injection in the eye belongs to the publicly funded service choices in health care in Finland.**

<b>Question</b>	Is the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration with bevacizumab injection in the eye a part of the publicly funded service choices in health care in Finland?	
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland recommends the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with bevacizumab injection in the eye to be included in the publicly funded service choices in health care in Finland.	
<b>Grounds</b>	<b>The severity of the health issue</b>	AMD is one of the most common causes of visual impairment for people over 55 years of age. Without treatment, AMD leads to severe visual impairment and the disease progresses usually fast within weeks or months.
	<b>Effectiveness</b>	Bevacizumab is an effective AMD treatment that improves vision. It is as effective as the injections ranibizumab and aflibercept used to treat AMD.
	<b>Safety</b>	Bevacizumab is as safe a treatment for AMD as ranibizumab and aflibercept. Less than 1% of patients treated with bevacizumab get severe internal eye damage as is the case with ranibizumab and aflibercept.
	<b>Cost</b>	Bevacizumab is the least expensive product for the injection treatment of AMD. The costs of ranibizumab and aflibercept are approximately 20 times higher than those of bevacizumab. According to Fimea's <a href="#">report</a> , the costs of a single dose in Finnish hospitals in the year 2014 were: bevacizumab 16-49 euros, ranibizumab 664-889 euros, aflibercept 683-830 euros.
	<b>Ethical viewpoints</b>	Bevacizumab is used in the treatment of AMD even though the producer has not applied for a selling permit for the treatment of AMD for bevacizumab. Bevacizumab is the product that has been longest in use for the injection treatment of AMD in Finland: it has been used in AMD treatment since 2006.
<b>Diagnosis (ICD-10) codes</b> <b>Procedure codes</b> <small>(Finnish Classification of Surgical Procedures*)</small>	Diagnosis code (ICD-10): <b>H35.31</b> Procedure code 'Injection of medicine into the vitreous humour': <b>CKD05</b>	
<b>Links to background information</b>	<a href="#">Link to Fimea's report</a> "Biologiset lääkkeet silmänpohjan kostean ikärappeuman hoidossa" (2015) ; <a href="#">link to the summary</a>	

\*The Finnish Classification of Surgical Procedures is based on the Nordic Classification of Surgical Procedures (NCSP)

