

European Society of Ophthalmology



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European Leadership Development Program Class of 2011-2013 Project Abstract

Title of Project: Starting anti- VEGF treatment for wet ARMD at the General Hospital Novo mesto and other peripheral hospitals in Slovenia

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to expand anti-VEGF treatment for wet ARMD to General Hospital Novo mesto and other peripheral hospitals in Slovenia. Until September 2011, the anti-VEGF treatment in Slovenia was possible only at the University Eye Clinic Ljubljana and the Department of Eye Diseases at University Clinical Centre Maribor. The overwhelming numbers of patients needing anti-VEGF treatment led to the idea to expand anti-VEGF treatment for wet AMD to peripheral hospitals in Slovenia.

Methods: Following the extensive and regular consultations concerning retinal diseases with Assistant Professor Polona Jaki Mekjavič M.D., Ph.D. from the University Eye Clinic Ljubljana, who also took EuLDP program a few years ago, I initiated the project on starting anti- VEGF treatment for wet ARMD at the General Hospital Novo mesto. Ophthalmologists of our department introduced the new treatment to the hospital director and asked for the necessary new instruments and equipment. All the paperwork had been done: the questionnaire for novelties to the ministry of health, request to the ethic committee (extension of clinical trial), request to the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, suggestion for improvement of standards. Training for doctors and nurses was organized at the University Eye Clinic Ljubljana. After all the approvals, the documents for patients were prepared, the complete team was trained (two project presentations to all team members were made) and the arrangement with the central pharmacy supply was made. The clinical pathway was written and set to website to provide help to other ophthalmologists struggling to start anti- VEGF treatment in Slovenia. An article about new treatment at the General Hospital Novo mesto was published in the local paper and a presentation of new treatment was organized at the General Hospital Novo mesto. People from an insurance company also attended the presentation.

Results: Anti-VEGF treatment for wet ARMD at the General Hospital Novo mesto started in September 2011. Meetings organized to expand anti-VEGF treatment to other peripheral hospitals in Slovenia are currently in progress.

Conclusion: Successful start of anti-VEGF treatment at the General Hospital Novo mesto was the result of good cooperation of all team members. This project was realized with the knowledge and skills acquired at the EuLDP program.