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Treatment of diabetic macular edema with ILUVIEN (fluocinolone acetonide 0.19 mg): Pharmacokinetics and lipophilicity for the primary care provider

Diabetes mellitus is an epidemic worldwide. Primary care providers, including advanced practice registered nurses, can play a vital role in both the treatment of the disease and prevention of complications, particularly diabetic macular edema. A working understanding of the disease process and early referral is of exceptional importance as well as long term treatment options their patients may receive from their Ophthalmologist. ILUVIEN® (fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant) 0.19 mg is an implant injected into the eye (vitreous) and used for the treatment of diabetic macular edema in patients who have been treated with corticosteroids before and did not have a significant increase in eye pressure. The implant can work for up to 36 months. To understand how the drug can improve vision and decrease edema, one must understand the pharmacokinetics of the drug as well as its lipophilic nature. Lipophilicity is the reason so little of the drug is required to achieve these results. Not all corticosteroids have the same lipophilicity, water solubility and tissue penetration. It is important for the primary care provider to appreciate the features of the drug and understand the implications of diabetic macular edema. Assertive, collaborative treatment imperative for this patient population to maintain vision through their life time.

Biography

Alyson Evans is currently working in Alimera Sciences MSL team, expanding her involvement in the Pharmaceutical industry having been in the nursing field for the past 10 years. Since she received her Undergraduate and Graduate degrees from Mount Carmel College of Nursing, she has practiced as an Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist for nearly 7 years. She has received a Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2014, conducting her own research project including the IRB process. She is fluent in research, evidence-based practice and interdisciplinary collaboration. Her unique background on patient care brings a new perspective to the MSL position with Alimera Sciences.

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