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Novel sight saving device in trials at King's College Hospital, London

London 8th May 2008: A new treatment that offers fresh hope for patients with wet age related macular degeneration (AMD) is under investigation at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London. This new treatment is being developed by NeoVista, Inc.

AMD, a degenerative eye condition of the retina, is the leading cause of vision loss in the UK, affecting around a quarter of a million people.¹ Wet AMD, which causes loss of central vision, is the most aggressive type of AMD. Every year 26,000 new cases of wet AMD are diagnosed in the UK.² It is responsible for 90% of blindness caused by the condition. If left untreated, the condition can lead to blindness in less than three months.³

Mr Tim Jackson, a Consultant Eye Surgeon at King's College Hospital, will perform the UK's first operation, in which a focused dose of radiation will be delivered directly to the area of the eye affected by wet AMD, minimising damage to healthy adjoining tissue. Mr Jackson said: "This is a potentially exciting development – a single procedure like this could offer significant patient benefits when compared with current treatments, which involve regular and expensive injections in the patient's eye, potentially for life."

The treatment is administered by a common daycase ophthalmology surgical procedure, and the whole procedure can take less than an hour to perform.

Steve Winyard from the Royal National Institute for the Blind commented: "the RNIB welcomes this research at Kings College that may increase the treatment options for people with wet age-related macular degeneration. We very much hope that the promising results from the initial use of this device will be confirmed in the phase III trial that is now being conducted in Europe and the US. Wet AMD is the largest cause of sight loss in the UK and we need a wide range of proven treatments to be available on the NHS."

Tom Bremridge, Chief Executive of the Macular Disease Society said: 'This is an exciting new procedure. We very much welcome progress like this. Hopefully it will cut down the need for frequent repeat visits and make the treatment regime less demanding for patients, clinicians and budgets. We will be watching progress with interest and optimism.'

Prior trial results clearly demonstrate the potential this treatment has to improve vision and the quality of life of those with wet AMD. In the most recent study of 34 patients who received this treatment, 39% had an improvement in their eyesight by at least three lines on the ETDRS (Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study), which is the worldwide standard for visual acuity testing in clinical trials.⁴

The president of NeoVista, John N. Hendrick remarked: "We are delighted that King's College Hospital has initiated the use of our technology. As the first clinical trial site in the UK, this marks an important step in bringing this new treatment to Europe and helping to prevent blindness in patients with wet AMD. Our technology is already approved for use in the UK and we are on schedule to have it commercially available in the UK and the rest of Europe towards the end of 2008."

Information for patients:

If you are a patient with wet age-related macular degeneration and are interested in taking part in the trial, please log onto <http://www.kch.nhs.uk/news/archive/2008/novel-sight-saving-device-in-trials-at-kings-college-hospital/> to find out more information. In addition, please visit the NeoVista website, www.neovistainc.com for further information on this exciting new treatment.

Notes to editors

The following people are available for interview

- Mr Tim Jackson, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, King's College Hospital, London
- Patient case study from Kings College Hospital

For further information, please contact

Tom Reidy
Huntsworth Health
Tel: 020 8747 4450
Email: tomreidy@hhealth.com

The Macular Disease Society
Help line: 0845 241 2041
www.maculardisease.org
info@maculardisease.org

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4. Data on File NeoVista INC

About NeoVista, Inc.

NeoVista, Inc. is a privately held development-stage medical device company based in Fremont, California. NeoVista's epiretinal brachytherapy is currently being studied across the US and Europe in a definitive Phase 3 clinical study (CABERNET) to support eventual filing for regulatory approval to market the product in the United States. The company has received a CE mark by regulatory authorities to market its device in the EU. For more information about the company, the clinical trial or this novel wet AMD therapy, please visit the company's Web site at www.neovistainc.com