

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10|1|2015

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 6|19|2015

OVERVIEW

Ocriplasmin (Jetrea®) is a recombinant truncated form of human plasmin, a proteolytic enzyme that breaks down protein components at the vitreoretinal interface in the eye. Ocriplasmin is injected into the affected eye (intravitreal) as a single dose and can induce vitreous liquefaction and separation from the retina. Its proposed use is for the treatment of symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA).

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

A single intravitreal injection of ocriplasmin may be considered **medically necessary** for treatment of an eye with symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA).

The use of intravitreal ocriplasmin is considered **investigational** in all other situations, including use of repeat injections of ocriplasmin.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

None

BACKGROUND

The vitreous is a gel-like fluid within the eye that adheres completely to the surface of the retina. The consistency of the vitreous and its adhesion to the retina are maintained by several proteins including collagen, laminin, and fibronectin. With aging, the proteins in the vitreous break down, resulting in liquefaction of the vitreous and eventual separation of the vitreous from the retina, a process called posterior vitreous detachment (PVD).

The process of vitreous detachment usually proceeds without incident, but sometimes the separation is not complete. The adhesion usually remains at sites where the bonds between the vitreous and retina are the strongest. Adhesion at the macula is called VMA. In some cases, VMA can cause visual symptoms. The traction caused by the adherent vitreous can cause deformation of the retina, edema, and macular holes. The retina may tear or detach. Symptoms can be variable, but can include diminished visual acuity, distorted vision (metamorphopsia) and central field defect.

Patients are usually observed until resolution or worsening, in which case vitrectomy is the only treatment.

Although it is believed that only 10% of cases resolve spontaneously, observation is usually indicated because vitrectomy has risks and an almost certain occurrence of cataract in the years following vitrectomy.

Ocriplasmin is a recombinant product that is a shortened form of the protease plasmin. Early studies of ocriplasmin were conducted in patients who were scheduled to have vitrectomy and established doses that showed some effect in inducing PVD and the temporal course of the effect. Studies by Benz et al, de Smet et al, and Stalmans et al led to the design and conduct of the pivotal clinical trials described in the Rationale section of this policy.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for limitations of benefits/coverage for surgery.

CODING

BlueCHIP for Medicare and Commercial Products:

The following CPT and HCPCS codes are covered with one of the ICD10 codes listed in the code range below

67028:

J7316: Inj, Ocriplasmin, 0.125 MG

ICD10-CM Range: H43.821-H43.829

RELATED POLICIES

None

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, August 2015

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6. Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center (TEC). Ocriplasmin for symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion. *TEC Assessments 2013*. 2013;Volume 28, Tab TBA. PMID
7. Stalmans P, Benz MS, Gandorfer A, et al. Enzymatic vitreolysis with ocriplasmin for vitreomacular traction and macular holes. *N Engl J Med*. Aug 16 2012;367(7):606-615. PMID 22894573
8. National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Ocriplasmin for treating vitreomacular traction. 2013; TA297:<http://publications.nice.org.uk/ocriplasmin-for-treating-vitreomacular-traction-ta297/guidance>. Last accessed June, 2014.

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