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**THE MAGNIFIER Issue #59, September, 2007**

Newsletter from the Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 531313 Henderson, NV 89053  
<http://www.eyesight.org>

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**GENENTECH BEGINS ENROLLMENT IN FOUR NEW TRIALS FOR  
MACULAR EDEMA AND RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION**

For more information on locations or enrollment qualifications, call toll-free 1-888-662-6728. Electronic subscribers may click on one of the URL's listed below.

**Phase III DME Trials**

Genentech recently opened two randomized, sham-controlled clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of LUCENTIS® (ranibizumab injection) in patients with diabetic macular edema. The trials are called RIDE and RISE (Ranibizumab Injection in Subjects With Clinically Significant Macular Edema With Center Involvement Secondary to Diabetes Mellitus Studies). Each of these trials are designed to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of intraocular injections of LUCENTIS in approximately 360 patients at 70 centers in the United States. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and have macular edema as a result of type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Additional information on these trials is available online  
at:<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00473382> (RIDE)  
<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00473330> (RISE)

**Phase III RVO Trials**

Genentech recently opened two randomized, double-masked, sham-controlled clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of LUCENTIS® (ranibizumab injection) in patients with retinal vein occlusion.

The trials are called BRAVO (Ranibizumab Injection in Patients With Macular Edema Secondary to Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion) and CRUISE (Ranibizumab Injection in Patients With Macular Edema Secondary to Central Retinal Vein Occlusion). These trials are designed to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of intraocular injections of LUCENTIS in approximately 390 subjects with BRVO (“BRAVO”) and CRVO (“CRUISE”) at 70 centers in the United States. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and have center-involved macular edema secondary to BRVO or CRVO.

Additional information on these trials is available online at:

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00486018> (BRAVO)

<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00485836> (CRUISE)

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**UPDATE:** We had many phone calls regarding our last article publishing information on an oral treatment for dry Md. The pharmaceutical company, PIPEX, is conducting trials using a compound called oral Z-monocys. The company has successfully completed a six-month, 80-patient, randomized, double-blind clinical trial. This trial demonstrated statistically significant improvement in visual acuity. For more information email [info@pipexinc.com](mailto:info@pipexinc.com) or call (734) 332-7800.

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### **LOW VISION REHABILITATION DELIVERY MODEL LAUNCHED**

With a copy of this information, you, the patient hold the key that will open the doors to the care you deserve. Take this article to your Dr. and discuss possible referrals.

At the third annual Envision 07 Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, a LOW VISION REHABILITATION DELIVERY MODEL was released. This concept (pictured in the diagram) is an incredible step in the right direction for over-all therapy and rehabilitation for the visually challenged. As President of the Macular Degeneration Foundation, I personally speak with

hundreds of patients each year. If each of these patients could have the benefit of this identified process\*, the devastation of their diagnoses could be greatly reduced. When this process\* is activated on a National level, the rehabilitation of a visually challenged patient will be comparable to the rehabilitation of a patient with any other devastating physical impairment that requires therapy and rehabilitation. When a patient is referred to a low-vision clinic, an occupational therapist can deal with the emotional as well as the magnification needs of the patient. Training from a qualified therapist can determine the success of a patient finding a magnification device and using this device on a daily basis. At this point, patients are sent home without enough information and certainly without any support.

\*The process would start with the physicians: Disease diagnosis, management and ongoing eye care; Physicians would refer patients to Low Vision Physicians: Od/Md for a Low Vision Evaluation; the Low Vision Physicians would refer patients to Rehabilitation Therapists; Rehabilitation Therapists would refer patients to Support Providers: Community resources, Support groups, Counseling, Transportation Services, and Aging Services.

The four professional organizations involved in the design of the model are:  
AAO VRC: American Academy of Ophthalmology Vision Rehab Committee

AOA LVRS: American Optometric Association Low Vision Rehab Section

AER: Ass. of Education and Rehab of people who are Blind or Visually Impaired

AOTA: American Occupational Therapy Association

Dan Roberts, Director of MD Support was present representing the consumer.

For more information go to <http://www.mdsupport.org/lvrehab.html>

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#### CONTACTING MDF

To speak to a support representative directly, you may call 1-888-633-3937. If you reach our voice mail, please speak slowly and distinctly.

## ORDERING BOOKS & TAPES

When purchasing items from Amazon.com, please remember to use the MDF search box located at <http://www.eyesight.org/Books/books.html> . By simply originating your search from our website, Amazon rewards the Foundation with a small commission from each product you order. Thank you.

## MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please make checks payable to Macular Degeneration Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 531313, Henderson, Nevada 89053, or you may use your credit card on our web site <http://www.eyesight.org/Donations/donations.html> . Your contributions make our services available as a support system for macular degeneration patients in the following ways:

1. We provide toll-free lines for personal contact assistance.
2. We mail brochures and other printed materials upon request.
3. We support an award-winning web site that provides the latest up-to-date information.
4. We fund research proposal grants to provide therapies for both the wet and dry form of AMD. Contributions marked "research" are used 100% for research.

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MDF was founded in 1992 by Edmund J. Aleksandrovich Ph.D (a victim of macular degeneration). It provides MD patients and their families with the information necessary to understand the disease, the latest news concerning ways to cope with the disease, and supports the efforts of researchers to find a cure.

Subscribers who wish to cancel their subscription or change their email address may visit: <http://www.eyesight.org/Newsletter/newsletter.html> .

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