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FDA Approves Implantable Telescope for End-Stage Macular Degeneration

Breakthrough Treatment for the Leading Cause of Blindness in Older Patients

Pensacola, Fla. - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a first-ever implantable miniature telescope to improve vision in patients with end-stage age-related macular degeneration (AMD) – the leading cause of blindness in older patients. Treatment options for this disease have been extremely limited until now. This innovative technology provides patients with new hope that they might see better once again.

Retina Specialty Institute is the only approved site in the Gulf Coast area to offer end-stage AMD patients an opportunity to receive the implant. The institute is coordinating with the CentraSight treatment program to determine which patients are eligible candidates. If the patient is recommended for the treatment, the telescope implantation is performed by a specially trained ophthalmic surgeon practicing in conjunction with Retinal Specialty Institute. Retina Specialty Institute has applied for Medicare beneficiary access to this implantation procedure.

Smaller than a pea, the telescope is implanted in one eye through an outpatient surgical procedure that takes a little more than 30 minutes. In the implanted eye, the device improves central vision, while the non-operated eye provides peripheral vision for mobility and orientation.

“The implant doesn’t directly treat AMD, it works around it,” said Dr. Sunil Gupta of Retina Specialty Institute. “The implant is designed to improve overall visual acuity in patients who are 75 years of age or older, with stable severe vision impairment associated with end-stage AMD. More than two-thirds of those who have received the device have seen significantly improved vision and quality of life.”

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More than 1.7 million Americans over age 50 suffer vision loss from age-related macular degeneration, and approximately half have advanced AMD in both eyes. Advanced AMD often progresses to end-stage AMD – a condition so debilitating the patients often experience a loss of independence, social isolation, and difficulty with daily activities.

A variety of treatments for age-related macular degeneration are currently available that can prevent or postpone end-stage AMD. For information about what you can do to treat your AMD now, or to see if you are a candidate for the implantable miniature telescope, call 850-476-6759 or toll-free 866-293-8159. Retina Specialty Institute offers national clinical trials and state-of-the art surgical skills to patients throughout the Southeast. For more information visit www.retinaspecialty.com.

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