

VISUDYNE (verteporfin)

Effective Date: 1/28/14

Date Developed: 1/28/14 by Robert Sterling, MD

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Description: **Visudyne** is a light-activated drug used in photodynamic therapy. Once activated by light, reactive oxygen radicals are produced which results in local neovascular endothelial damage and vessel occlusion. There may also be some damage to adjacent retinal tissue.

Authorization: **Visudyne** is indicated for the treatment of patients with predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization due to age-related macular degeneration, pathologic myopia or presumed ocular histoplasmosis.

Unlabeled Use: There is insufficient evidence to indicate **Visudyne** for the treatment of predominantly occult subfoveal choroidal neovascularization. (See VCHCP policy on Coverage of Prescription Medication for Off-Label use.)

Dosing: A course of Visudyne therapy is a two-step process requiring IV administration of drug followed in 15 minutes by 689 nm laser. Each step requires specific and accurate measurements. Please refer to product information.

PRECAUTIONS: extravasation causes intense inflammation and pain; visual disturbances; avoid direct sunlight for five days (photosensitivity) but encourage exposure to indoor light, which will slowly inactivate the drug

DRUG INTERACTIONS: thromboxane A2 inhibitors (aspirin, dipyridamole) could decrease efficacy; other photosensitizing agents (tetracyclines, sulfonamides, hypoglycemic agents,

thiazides) potentiate skin sensitivity; free radical scavengers (DMSO, beta carotene, etc) could decrease activity

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