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Dr. Pavlica involved in a National Eye Institute sponsored study to help save vision in patients with diabetes

Michael Pavlica, MD, a specialist in Diseases and Surgery of the Retina and Vitreous and founder of the Diabetic Eye Center at Family Eye Group in Lancaster County, is an investigator in a groundbreaking National Eye Institute sponsored study that was just published in the prestigious ***New England Journal of Medicine***. Dr. Pavlica enrolled and is following patients in the cutting edge study that is helping determine the best types of medicines to use in the eye to treat diabetic eye disease and help preserve patients' vision.

This innovative clinical trial compares the three main drugs currently used to inject in the eye to treat diabetic macular edema. Eylea™ (Aflibercept) provided greater visual improvement, on average, than did Avastin™ (Bevacizumab), or Lucentis™ (Ranibizumab) when vision was relatively poor at 20/50 or worse at the start of the trial. However, the three drugs resulted in similar average improvements when starting vision was better at 20/40 to 20/32. Investigators found no major differences in the safety of the three drugs. The trial is organized by the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network (*DRCR.net*) and was funded by the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health. DRCR.net investigators enrolled a total of 660 people with macular edema at 88 clinical trial sites across the United States. Prior to this it was unknown which, if any, of the three injections worked better to preserve vision, and under what conditions.

Family Eye Group is the only practice in Central Pennsylvania that is participating in this study. Dr. Pavlica and his team have been involved in multiple studies within the DRCR network that have helped to set the current standard of care for treating diabetic eye disease.

Diabetic Macular Edema can develop in people with diabetic retinopathy, a type of diabetic eye disease that can cause blood vessel growth or leakage in the center of the retina, the seeing surface in the back of the eye that is used for tasks such as driving, reading and watching television. Macular edema, or swelling, occurs when fluid leaks from retinal blood vessels and accumulates in the macula, causing reduced vision, and is the most common cause of diabetes-related vision loss. Almost 8 million Americans have diabetic retinopathy.

The DRCR.net is dedicated to facilitating multicenter clinical research of diabetic eye disease. The network formed in 2002 and comprises more than 250 physicians practicing at more than 140 clinical sites across the country.

For more information please visit:
www.DRCR.net

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