**Amy Kotecha, MD Capital Vision**

**Informed consent for Avastin™ (bevacizumab)**

Ophthalmologists (eye surgeons) treat some types of eye problems with a medication called Avastin. Avastin can help decrease vision loss due to 2 types of eye problems:

1. The growth of harmful blood vessels in your eyes
2. Swelling in the back of the eye (macular edema).

**When ophthalmologists treat eye problems with Avastin, its use is considered “off-label.”** That means the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Avastin for treating a different disease (in this case, colon cancer), not eye problems. Ophthalmologists now use Avastin off-label because they have found it can help slow the growth of harmful eye blood vessels and lessen swelling that decreases vision.

**Avastin is given by an injection (shot) into the back of your eye.** The ophthalmologist may put eye drops to enlarge the pupil (black circle) in the center of your eye to see the back of your eye clearly. Next, the ophthalmologist will numb your eye as much as possible so that you do not feel pain. Then the ophthalmologist injects Avastin into the back part of your eye. Most patients need Avastin injections about every 4 weeks because its effect wears off over time. Your ophthalmologist will tell you how often you will need Avastin injections.

**You may have some minor problems right after the injection.**

* Your vision might be blurry right after the injection. Do not drive or use machines until your vision gets better.
* Your eye may be irritated and make a lot of tears for a few hours.
* The white part of your eye might turn bright red. This is from a small amount of bleeding on the surface of your eye. It will not change how well you see. This will clear up in a few days or a week.
* You might see small specks called floaters. Many people already have floaters. These new floaters may go away in a few days, or you may stop noticing them. Some floaters are drops of the oil that lubricates the syringe. These will not go away.

**Tell the ophthalmologist right away if you notice any other problems after the injection such as:**

* Eye pain, blurry or decreased vision, extra sensitivity to light, eye redness, and pus or other discharge coming from the eye.
* New or large floaters that do not go away.
* Flashing lights or decreased side vision with the floaters.

You can help prevent or reduce these problems. Do not rub your eyes or go swimming for 3 days after each injection. Call your ophthalmologist right away if you notice any of these problems. Keep all appointments with your ophthalmologist.

**Benefits (how this medication can help).** The goal of using Avastin for eye problems is to prevent more vision loss. But Avastin may not bring back vision loss that happened before treatment.

**Alternatives (choices and options).** Avastin is not the only option. Your other treatment choices may include:

* No treatment. If you decide not to have treatment, then your eye problems can quickly get worse. You could have more vision loss or even blindness.
* Medications approved by the FDA for treating your type of eye problem.
* Other medications approved by the FDA for a different condition.
* Your ophthalmologist will tell you about the risks and benefits of these medications.

**Risks (problems this medication may cause).** As with all medications, there are risks from getting Avastin injections in the eye. These risks can cause vision loss or blindness. Your ophthalmologist cannot tell you about every risk. Here are some common or serious ones:

* Avastin might not improve your vision. Your vision may get worse.
* Avastin injections can cause other eye problems such as:
  + An eye infection
  + Detached retina (the light-sensitive part of the back of your eye might get pulled off)
  + Cataracts (clouding of the eye’s lens)
  + Glaucoma (increased eye pressure)
  + Hypotony (reduced eye pressure)
  + Retina or cornea damage
  + Bleeding within the eye.
  + Inflammation inside the eye that can cause vision loss, pain, or redness
* Some patients taking this medication have had heart attack, stroke, or death. The FDA does not know if the medicine caused these problems. Patients with diabetes may have these problems more often. Tell your ophthalmologist if you have had a heart attack or stroke.
* Eye problems from Avastin can appear days, weeks, months, or even years after your injection. The costs to treat these are not included in the fee you pay for the Avastin injection.

**By signing below, you consent (agree) that:**

* You read this informed consent form or had it read to you.
* You were told you have harmful blood vessels or swelling in the back of your eye.
* Your questions about using Avastin to treat your eye problem were answered.
* You were told that use of Avastin is “off-label.”
* You consent to have the ophthalmologist inject Avastin into your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“right,” “left”, or “both”) eye(s).
* You consent to keep having Avastin injections unless you tell your ophthalmologist that you no longer want the medication or your eye problems change so much that there are new risks and benefits to discuss with the ophthalmologist.

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient) Date