

International Low Vision Support Group

NEWSLETTER

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This Month

According to the AARP, more than 20% of us older Americans don't drive. Instead, our use of public transportation is greatly increasing as baby boomers age and give up their car keys.

Men typically outlive their driving days by 7 years, and women even longer at 10. Getting us where we want to go is a challenge. And it is an important one, since being mobile is key to our independence, staying in our homes, and having a social life. Also, many of us are now continuing to work into our later years, adding even more emphasis on our need for transportation.



As we will hear in this month's presentation, accessible public transportation is a right guaranteed us by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), but paratransit services are available only in the larger towns. Transportation for America tells us that more than 15.5 million of us live in communities without such services. That means we have to either be very creative or live in areas where paratransit services are available. If that is a viable option for you, this session from Easter Seals Project Action will provide helpful information.

Dan Roberts

News & Information

FDA Approves Port Delivery System

Genentech's Port Delivery System, now called Susvimo, is the first wet AMD treatment to provide an alternative to monthly injections. By continuously delivering medicine into the eye through a refillable implant, Susvimo may help people with wet AMD maintain their vision with as few as two treatments per year.

Genentech announced on October 21, 2021 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Susvimo (ranibizumab injection) for intravitreal use via ocular implant for the treatment of people with wet age-related macular degeneration (neovascular AMD). The breakthrough drug delivery system is available to individuals who have previously responded to at least two anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) injections.

“Susvimo represents a major advancement in the treatment of retinal disease, and is an important new option for patients with wet AMD,” said Carl Regillo, M.D., Chief of Retina Service at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and an Archway study investigator. “With Susvimo, my patients now have an option that can help them maintain their vision as well as anti-VEGF injections, but on a more manageable twice-yearly treatment schedule.”

Susvimo delivers ranibizumab continuously, offering people living with wet AMD an alternative to anti-VEGF eye injections needed as often as once a month. The implant is surgically inserted into the eye during a one-time outpatient procedure and refilled every six months. If necessary, supplemental ranibizumab treatment can be given to the affected eye while the Susvimo implant is in place.

The approval is based on positive results from the Phase III Archway study primary analysis, described here previously.

Susvimo will be available in the United States by the end of this year. For people who qualify, Genentech plans to offer patient

assistance programs through Genentech Access Solutions. More information is available by calling (866) 422-2377.

What Should You Expect From Your Paratransit Service?

As a supplement to this month's presentation, here are amenities provided by the best paratransit services:

- Accessible, identifiable, and safe waiting areas
- Verbal identification of stops and destinations
- Tickets and schedules in Braille
- Door-to-door service (not just curb-to-curb)
- Employees trained in needs of the vision-impaired
- Assistance in boarding and off boarding
- Availability (bus runs at least every 30 minutes)
- Adequate number of vehicles
- Adequate number and design of routes
- Adequate and convenient hours of operation
- Service during evenings and weekends
- Availability of intercity routes (from town to town)
- Fares and fees in line with local economy
- Allowance for short stops of less than an hour
- Reliable, on-time service

If your local transportation authority is lacking in any of these areas, you can be an effective advocate by informing them about what is expected under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

— Next Month —

“Crime Prevention and Personal Safety for the Blind and Visually Impaired”

**Tips for increasing confidence and the ability to
handle oneself in a dangerous situation.**