

## **VISUDYNE (verteporfin)**

Effective Date: 1/28/14

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

Last Approval Date: 1/26/16, 1/24/17, 1/23/18, 1/22/19,  
2/18/20, 2/2/21, 8/3/21, 2/1/22, 1/31/23

**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:**

**Subfoveal choroidal neovascularization:** Treatment of predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization due to age-related macular degeneration, pathologic myopia, or presumed ocular histoplasmosis.

**Dosing:** A course of Visudyne therapy is a two-step process requiring IV administration of drug followed in 15 minutes by 689 nm nonthermal diode laser. Each step requires specific and accurate measurements. Please refer to product information May repeat at 3-month intervals (if evidence of choroidal neovascular leakage)

**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

### **Dosage Forms:**

Solution, Intravenous: 15 mL (15 mg)

**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

## REFERENCES

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Visudyne (verteporfin) [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC; June 2016.

### Revision History:

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<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Content Revised (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Review/Revision Notes</b>
1/24/17	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
1/23/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
1/22/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
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