



## **DR. RONALD FRENKEL HELPS NEW DRUG GET FDA APPROVED FOR PATIENTS TO RECOVER THEIR EYESIGHT!**

A new drug has just been FDA approved to treat patients with blockages of blood vessels in their eyes. Ronald Frenkel, MD, FACS, FICS served as the Principal Investigator for the studies at the Eye Research Foundation and East Florida Eye Institute in Stuart, for the first clinical trials regarding the safety and effectiveness of Lucentis for the treatment of Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO). The use of Lucentis is now FDA approved to treat this condition, for which no drug treatment had previously been available. Our patients were fortunate to receive the drug about two years prior to it being available to the general public, at no cost.

As part of a national multi-center trial, two different clinical studies were performed at the Institute. The **BRAVO** study assessed Lucentis in a total of 397 patients with reduced vision from macular swelling following blockages of branches of retinal veins. The **CRUISE** study assessed Lucentis in a total of 392 patients with reduced vision due to macular swelling following blockages of the main vein that returns blood to the heart from the eye. Patients treated with Lucentis in both studies significantly improved their vision. **This is the first time that a drug has been shown to help these patient recover their vision.**

1. Brown DM, Campochiaro PA, Singh RP, Li Z, Gray S, Saroj N, Rundle AC, Rubio RG, Murahashi WY; CRUISE Investigators (including Frenkel, REP). Ranibizumab for macular edema following branch retinal vein occlusion: six-month primary end point results of a phase III study. *Ophthalmology*. 2010 Jun;117(6):1124-1133.

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2. Campochiaro PA, Heier JS, Feiner L, Gray S, Saroj N, Rundle AC, Murahashi WY, Rubio RG; BRAVO Investigators (including Frenkel, REP). Ranibizumab for macular edema following branch retinal vein occlusion: six-month primary end point results of a phase III study. *Ophthalmology*. 2010 Jun;117(6):1102-1112.e1.

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