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Eye Co's Phase 1b Safety Study involving Fludrocortisone Acetate Published in BMJ.

Eye Co is pleased to announce that the results of its Phase 1b safety study involving Fludrocortisone Acetate have just been published in the **British Medical Journal : Open Ophthalmology (BMJ)**.

This heralds the emergence of this *new class of compound* potentially able to provide the treating ophthalmologist with a powerful addition to their ability to treat retinal diseases as noted by BMJ's editorial.

The key points to note about this new class of compounds, collectively known as the ***Mineralocorticoids***, and Eye Co's lead compound, ***fludrocortisone acetate*** are as follows:

1. Fludrocortisone inhibits inflammation including C3 inhibition and promotes physiological function of the diseased retina in both animal and human studies.
2. Fludrocortisone's dual function, its anti-inflammatory and anti-exudative activity addresses the pathology of DME and both Wet and Dry AMD.
    a. Given the aetiology of DME it addresses both the inflammatory and oedematous aspects by reducing inflammation and promoting fluid resorption and electrolyte balance.
    b. With respect to Wet AMD its action is to down-regulate inflammation and VEGF receptor expression on choroidal endothelial cells.
    c. The Phase 1b study suggest that in Dry-AMD it may retard GA lesion spread, addressing chronic inflammation, improving LLVA (rod function) by returning physiological and electrolyte balance to the residual functioning retina. The BMJ paper provides further evidence to support this claim.
3. There is no evidence of refractility, IOP rise, or cataract formation. The paper provides further details on the safety of this new compound. As observed by the BMJ editors it also promises to reduce injection frequency due to prolonged dwell time all of which improves cost effectiveness.

Eye Co has lodged patents for this new class globally and a patent for the use of Fludrocortisone in the treatment of Geographic Atrophy has already been granted in Australia.
Eye Co now intends to proceed with two pivotal Phase II studies. The first aims to confirm the efficacy of this compound in the treatment of Geographic Atrophy in humans. The second study will determine efficacy as rescue therapy in patients who no longer respond to anti-VEGF treatment.

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