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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Retina Specialist Ray D. Maizel's Early Participation in Studies Help Make New Drug
A Reality for Treatment of Macular Degeneration**

Mid Florida Eye Center now offers Eylea as a treatment option to AMD patients.

Eylea, the newest drug therapy to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD), became FDA-approved in November after numerous studies showed it to be as effective as other treatments. Dr. Ray D. Maizel, a retina specialist with Mid Florida Eye Center, participated in the FDA studies early on and now uses Eylea as a treatment option for patients who suffer from the wet form of macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision loss in the elderly.

"Clinical trials showed that Eylea is safe and effective," said Dr. Maizel, the first retina specialist in Lake County. "After one year, patients treated with Eylea maintained clearness of vision and in some cases improved."

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Eylea's benefits include fewer injections than the current treatments require. Eylea is also slightly less expensive than Lucentis, another comparable drug used to treat the disease.

Both the wet form and the dry form of AMD affect the macula, the part of the eye that allows people to see fine detail needed for daily tasks such as reading and driving. The wet form of AMD includes the growth of abnormal blood vessels, which can leak fluid into the central part of the retina or macula. When fluid leaks into the macula, the macula thickens and vision loss occurs. An early symptom of wet AMD occurs when straight lines appear to be wavy.

Eylea, also known as aflibercept, blocks the action of the proteins that cause blood vessels to proliferate and leak fluid into the eye.

"Eylea is an important new treatment option for adults with wet AMD," said Dr. Maizel. "And any new treatments for this potentially blinding disease can be significant."

For more information, call Mid Florida Eye Center at 888.820.7878.

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