Treatment eases dilemma for

Aids patients

BOSTON: One medicine will keep you alive.

Another will save your eyesight But you

.cannot take both.

That is a dilemma for many people with

Aids. They can take AZT, a 'medicine that

slows HIV, the Aids virus, or. they can take

Ganciclovir, a medicine that stops a blinding

eye infection.

But since both drugs cause anaemia. many

cannot tolerate them together.

"A lot of people need to make a choice,"

said Jay S. Duker. "Go off AZT and shorten

your life, or stay on AZT and go' blind."

To give patients a. third choice,

researchers have 'developed a new way of

delivering the eye medicine so it won't cause

anaemia. The strategy: Implant minuscule

sustained-release pellets inside the eyeball.

This keeps the drug out of the

bloodstream and inside the eye. where it is

needed. And it is released at a slow, steady

rate without the ups and downs of daily

infusions.

This idea is just one of dozens of new

approaches being developed to control

opportunistic .infections ~ -the usually ;

harmless germs that attack people with .]'.'

Aids weakened immune defences. The

pharmaceutical industry. estimates that

more than 40 drugs are being tested against.

these viruses, bacteria and other microscopic invaders common among Aids patients. (AP)