

Patient information

Intravitreal Injection for a Vascular Condition

Ophthalmology Department - Aintree Hospital

Why do I need an Intravitreal Injection?

This treatment should reduce the blister of fluid (oedema) at the back of the eye which is reducing the vision. We think you could be helped by this type of treatment. This information sheet is to help you understand what is involved.

What drugs are used?

Anti vEGF:

- Avastin (Bevacizumab – “off label” use)
- Lucentis (Ranibizumab)

Steroids:

- Triamcinolone acetate (“off label” use).

How is it done?

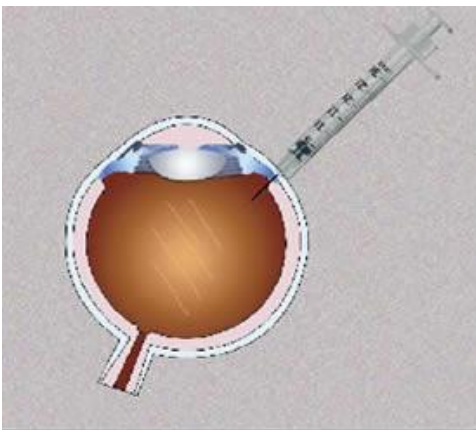
- The injection is done as a day case.
- Drops will be instilled when you arrive to enlarge your pupils, you may also have been asked to instil dilating drops yourself on the day.
- Anaesthetic drops and (or) anaesthetic injection will be instilled and your eye will be cleaned with iodine solution.

- The drug is given as an injection into the jelly cavity (vitreous) of your eye, the whole procedure takes about ten minutes.
- A drape is placed over the eye and a speculum placed so that the eye is kept open during the treatment.
- During the injection you will feel a sensation of pressure but it should not be painful.
- In the unlikely event the eye becomes very painful at the time of the injection or the vision suddenly “blank out” you should tell the doctor immediately.
- An anterior chamber tap to release fluid from the front of your eye thereby release pressure might also be needed.

What are the alternatives?

Without treatment, your eyesight may worsen.

Depending on the condition; alternative treatments may include laser treatment /sustained release implants. This will need to be discussed with your Ophthalmologist.



What should I do before I come into hospital?

No specific treatment is usually required before the injections though you might have been asked to instil a drop to enlarge the pupils (dilating drops) before leaving home. If your eye is sore, red or has discharge before the injection please inform the hospital.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

The most common side effects are:

Bruising / mild soreness After the injection the eye may feel slightly bruised and indeed a bruise may appear on the white of the eye. This is not a serious problem and is due to blood vessels lining the outside of the eye being caught by the needle. This will change colour like any other bruise and will go away over a couple of weeks. If your eye becomes very red and/or painful in the days and weeks following the injection you must contact the hospital immediately.

Corneal abrasion

A scratch over the top of your eye surface can occur which can be cured with topical treatment.

Floaters

A few floaters in the initial period are common, or you may notice a small air bubble present, these should settle down and disappear. If they persist or your vision drops contact the eye department for advice. A large black floater is common with triamcinolone injection

Other adverse events include:

Lens injury, bleeding in the vitreous (jelly of the eye), retinal detachment (visual drop/ further procedure) inflammation in the eye and raised eye pressure which might need treatment (especially with steroid injections).

There is a small chance that you will experience an allergic reaction to the drug.

Most serious side effects

Fortunately the most serious adverse effects are least common. About 1/1000 people will develop a serious eye infection. This can cause deterioration in vision or even total sight loss.

The day after your injection your eye should be comfortable but may appear red due to a small haemorrhage from the injection.

If your eye appearance changes i.e. becoming more red, with misty vision (there may / may not be any pain), after the injection, you should suspect an infection and contact the hospital immediately.

A very rare possibility of stroke has been reported with Anti vEGF drugs.

What are the expected benefits of treatment?

This treatment is aimed at decreasing the swelling at the back of the eye and therefore aiding to improve vision.

After care

- Avoid rubbing your eye, use a tissue to gently wipe away excess or blood stained tears.
- Due to the eyedrops used your vision will be blurred.
- Normal activities can be resumed straight after the injection.
- It is safe to fly after your injection.
- If you are given eyedrops or ointment to take home, use them as advised by the doctor who did your injection.
- If your eye becomes very red and/or painful in the days and weeks following the injection you must contact the hospital immediately.

If you experience vision loss you should ring:

Tel: 0151 529 0186/0196

Or for Out of Hours calls you should ring:

Tel:0151 525 5980

When can I return to work?

You may return to work the next day.

How many injections will I need?

Depending on the drug used, the treatment is given as either one injection (steroids) or a course of three injections (anti vEGF) spaced four weeks apart. Subsequent injections / combination treatments or other treatment may be required depending on how your eye responds to initial treatment.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further Information

Ophthalmology Clinic

Tel: 0151 529 0185

You may also like to contact the Retinal Co-ordinator on

Tel:0151 529 0196

**RNIB Understanding Eye Conditions relating to
Diabetes**

(Nov 2009 ISBN 978 1 85878 697 1)

The Macular Society
www.maculardisease.org
Helpline: 0845 241 2041

Royal College of Ophthalmologists
www.rcophth.ac.uk

Royal National Institute of Blind People
www.rnib.org
Helpline: 0303 123 9999

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