

Patient information

Intravitreal Injection for Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Ophthalmology Department – Aintree Hospital

What is an Intravitreal Injection for Wet AMD?

An intravitreal injection is offered because you have the wet type of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

In this condition, new blood vessels grow and leak in the back of your eye, causing a drop in vision.

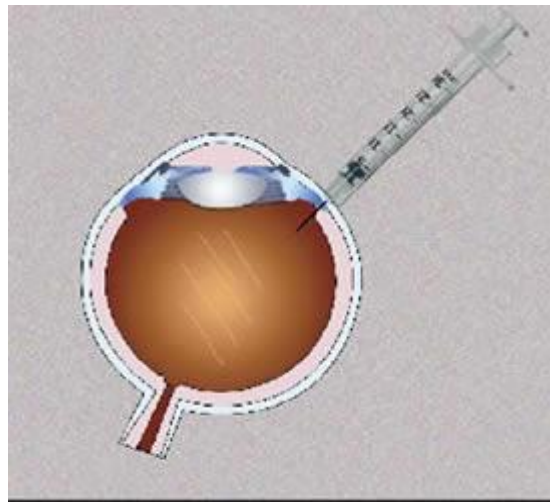
The drug injected, blocks the chemical messenger that stimulates the new blood vessels and stops them leaking. There may even be some repair of the damage present.

Drug used: Lucentis (Ranizumab)

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 and 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 you suddenly lose your vision you should tell the doctor immediately.



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 as you might need some drops to clear it up before the injection.

What are the alternatives?

Without treatment, your eyesight may worsen quickly.

Depending on the type of wet AMD you have and your response to the initial treatment, alternative treatments may include laser treatment or combination therapy / photodynamic therapy.

This will need to be discussed with your Ophthalmologist.

What are the potential risks and side effects of the injection?

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 then 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 may disappear. If they persist or if your vision drops contact the eye department for advice.

Other adverse events include lens injury, retinal detachment (decrease in vision / further surgery), vitreous (jelly) bleed, pigment epithelial tear (drop of vision and inflammation in the eye) and raised eye (intraocular) pressure.

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 worsen the vision or even lead to 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 be no 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?

Most patients (about 95%) find their vision is stabilised and some (about one third) have some improvement in 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 eye drops or ointment to take home, use them as advised by the Dr 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

Follow up

The treatment is given as a course of three injections spaced four weeks apart.

Subsequent injections may be required depending on how your eye responds which will be decided in your follow up clinic appointment four to six weeks after the 3rd injection.

When can I return to work?

You may resume work the day after your injection.

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

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

Author: Ophthalmology Department
Review date: April 2026

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعة الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والإلكترونيا.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字

體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نه‌خوشانه‌ی له‌لایه‌ن تراسته‌وه پسه‌ند کراون، نه‌گمر داوا بکری‌ت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنه‌وه)، چاپی گهوره، شری‌تی ده‌نگ، هیل‌ی موون و نه‌لیکترونیکی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字
体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhadda kale, sida luqadda kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.