

Patient information

Photodynamic Therapy with Verteporfin

St Pauls Eye Department - Royal Liverpool Hospital

What is Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)?

Photodynamic therapy (PDT) is a treatment combining medicine and laser for several conditions affecting the back of the eye (the retina and underlying tissue).

It involves an infusion of a light-reactive medicine (Verteporfin) into your bloodstream, and then application of laser light to the back of your eye to activate the medicine where it is needed.

What conditions are treated with PDT?

PDT is used to treat eye conditions where there are abnormal or leaking blood vessels at the back of your eye. These include central serous retinopathy (CSR or CSCR), some types of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and certain blood vessel growths.

PDT can be used in wet AMD where injections into the eye are not possible, practical or ruled out by other medical conditions. PDT may be used in combination with other treatments such as injections in the eye.

What can I expect during the treatment?

PDT involves a 15 minute infusion of verteporfin through a cannula (needle) placed into a vein in your arm or hand. This is followed by a minute and a half application of laser to your eye.

The laser is done on a normal eye examination instrument and involves placing a contact lens on your eye after local anaesthetic eye drops.

What precautions are there afterwards?

The verteporfin makes you very sensitive to light afterwards, particularly ultraviolet.

You should avoid direct sunlight and UV lights for 48 hours.

You should wear a wide-brimmed hat, tinted glasses, clothing fully covering arms and legs, and shoes and socks whilst outside during daylight, even if the sun is not fully out. You will be given tinted protective glasses to use.

Avoid sun through windows, halogen lights and UV medical lights e.g. Dental appointments, X-rays.

Sun blocks and sun cream are **not** sufficient. After two days you can go back to normal.

What are the benefits of treatment?

The aim of treatment is to shut down the abnormal blood vessels. The result depends on the condition treated. In CSR it should improve your vision and symptoms. In AMD the main aim is to prevent further deterioration.

In blood vessel growths the expected result depends on whether your vision has already been affected. More than one treatment may be required, and PDT may not be effective.

What are the side-effects or complications?

- Back-pain during the infusion occurs in 1 in 30 patients and gets better afterwards.
- Infusion site reactions can occur causing swelling, pain and bruising of your arm.

- Particularly if the area is exposed to day light and or if cannula placed during the infusion is not lying in the vein properly.
- Uncommonly the normal blood vessels at the back of your eye can shut down as well as the abnormal. This occurs in about 1 in 100 treatments and can make your vision worse. Usually the circulation restores itself and the vision returns to what it was.

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

Any problems or queries please contact

St Pauls Eye Research Centre

Monday to Friday 8am to 6.00pm

Tel: 0151 706 3994

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3994

Monday to Friday after 6pm until 9pm

Or Saturday and Sunday until 6pm please contact:

St. Paul's Primary Care

Tel: 0151 706 3949

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3949

**After 9pm Monday to Friday and after 6pm Saturday
/Sunday please contact:**

The Emergency Department via

Tel: 0151 706 2000

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2000

You may find the following websites helpful:

Royal National Institute of the blind:
www.rnib.org.uk

Macular Disease Society:
www.maculardisease.org
Tel: 01264350551

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

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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 په‌سه‌ند کراون، نه‌گهر داوا بکریت له فورماته‌کانی تردا بریتی له زمانه‌کانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنه‌وه)، چاپی گه‌وره، شریتی دمنگ، هیلی موون و ئه‌لیکترۆنیکی همیه.

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