

Intravitreal anti-VEGF injection treatment

What is anti- VEGF

Anti- VEGF targets vascular endothelial growth factors, which are produced by the retina in excess in certain conditions such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular oedema and macular oedema associated with retinal vein occlusion. These medicines can help to stop new blood vessel growth or reduce swelling (oedema) in the retina.

What is the goal of anti-VEGF treatment?

The treatment may help to prevent further loss of vision. Although some patients regain variable amounts of vision, intravitreal injections may not restore vision that has already been lost due to structural damage that may have occurred on account of the disease process.

What happens on the day of the injection?

Please do not drive on the day of your appointment. You will have your vision checked, drops may be put in your eyes to enlarge your pupils and you may have a retinal scan prior to having an injection.

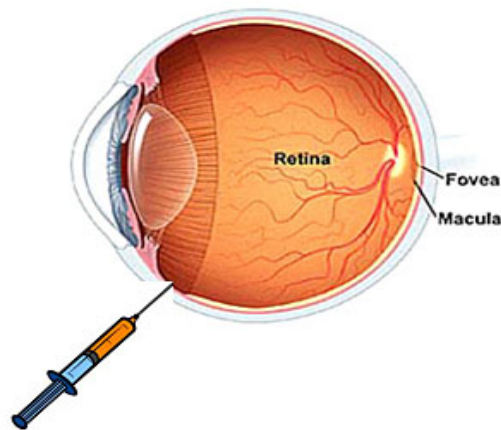
How is the treatment given?

The injection is given with you lying down comfortably on a bed in the clean treatment room. Local anaesthetic drops are applied to numb your eye and minimise discomfort.

Your eye and skin around your eye are cleaned to prevent infection. Your face and the area around your eye will be covered by a drape to keep the area sterile. A small clip will be used to keep the eye open. Further anaesthetic and antibiotic drops are put into the eye prior to the injection. You will be asked to look in a certain direction prior to the injection. The drug is injected into the white part (sclera) of your eye using a fine, short needle. More antibiotic drops will be administered.

What should I expect after the injection?

The white of your eye may be red where the injection was given but that should disappear in a few days. Your vision may be blurred for several hours because of the dilating eye drops. You may notice black swirls in your vision immediately after the injection (this is the drug floating in your eye) and floaters or “blobs” (air bubbles in the medicine) that should settle after a few days. Your eye should feel comfortable by the next day. You will be given some eye drops to take for a few days after the injection.



How many injections will I need?

Most patients will receive 3 injections at monthly intervals. Thereafter, the interval may then be longer depending on response to treatment when further injections may be given to maintain the benefits of therapy.

What are the risks of treatment?

Serious complications are rare but include infection (1 in 2000), bleeding, cataract formation, trauma to lens, and retinal detachment. Any of these serious complications may lead to severe, permanent loss of vision. There is a theoretical slight increase in risk of strokes or heart attacks in people treated with anti-VEGFs; and therefore anti-VEGF should be used with caution in patients who have had a stroke or heart attack in the past 3 months or have uncontrolled angina or uncontrolled high blood pressure.

Please inform me if there are any changes in your medical condition.

Do I need to take any special precautions after my injection?

Please avoid rubbing your eye, getting water into your eye or swimming for a few days after the injection.

How would I know if I have an infection/complication?

If you experience pain, blurred vision, worsening redness, sticky discharge or light sensitivity then please contact us immediately.