

Intravitreal Injections

What is an intravitreal Injection?

An intravitreal injection is an injection into the vitreous, which is the jelly like substance inside your eye. It is performed to place medicines inside the eye, near the retina.

Why is an intravitreal injection performed?

Intravitreal injections are used to deliver drugs to the retina and other structures in the back of the eye, thus avoiding effects on the rest of the body. Common conditions treated with intravitreal injections include diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular diseases and ocular inflammation.

What is the intravitreal injection procedure?

Once your pupils are dilated, the actual procedure takes around 15 minutes. We will lie you or sit you back in a comfortable position. Anaesthetic (numbing) drops will be placed in your eye and your eye and eyelids will be cleaned with an iodine antiseptic solution. This may initially cause a stinging feeling. The eye is held open with an instrument (speculum). The medicine is then injected into your vitreous: you may feel slight pressure and a momentary sharp feeling on the eye when this is done. After the procedure, the doctor will check your eye and an eye-pad will be applied. You will be given antibiotic drops or ointment to use at home.

What are the side effects?

After the injection you may have a gritty feeling in the eye, and it may appear bloodshot. This will resolve over a few days. You may see floaters, which will become smaller and disappear over one to two weeks.

Are there any risks?

Injecting any medication into the eye may result in increased intraocular pressure inflammation, or more serious side-effects such as cataract formation, intraocular bleeding, damage to the retina (retinal detachment or tear) or other eye structures. These complications are rare, estimated at less than 1 per 1000 injections. There is a remote possibility that you may develop an infection within your eye (endophthalmitis), which may lead to vision loss or, in rare cases, loss of the eye, but the risk of an infection is extremely low (estimated at 1-2 cases per 1000 injections).



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What else do I need to know?

Please allow at least 1 hour for your appointment. This will allow dilation of your pupils, the injection, and review afterwards by your doctor. Before you leave, you will have another appointment made for review, depending on the type of injection you have received.

Preparation for the injection

It is very important for you to tell us about any health conditions that you have, all the medications that you are taking, and especially any allergies to medications that you have had in the past.

I agree that this constitutes full disclosure, and that it supersedes any previous verbal or written disclosures. I certify that I have read, and fully understand the above paragraphs, and that I have had a sufficient opportunity for discussion, and to ask questions. I consent to this procedure. Where there may be repeats of the same treatment, this consent applies until I inform the Doctor otherwise.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Patient Name: (Print) _____

Doctor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Doctor Name: (Print) _____

