

**MR SIMON HORGAN FRCS FRCOphth
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon**

Information for Patients

INJECTION TREATMENT

There are several conditions affecting the eye which require treatment by an injection of medicine or a pellet into the eye. These conditions include Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO) and Diabetic Retinal Edema (DRE). Damage occurs to the small area at the back of the eye called the macula and gives rise to loss of central vision.

Drugs used to treat these conditions fall into two types: Lucentis, Avastin and Eylea are largely interchangeable and are the primary treatment for AMD and RVO.

Steroid treatments including Triamcinolone and Ozurdex are more commonly used to treat DME.

AMD and RVO

The medicine is injected into the eye using a very fine needle and initially involves a loading dose of three injections given at monthly intervals. These may be followed by further injections when considered necessary by Mr Horgan.

DME

The medicine is also injected into the eye using a fine needle. Treatment is determined by the speed of recovery of vision, and regular injections may be needed.

The day of treatment:

Injections are given in an operating theatre or treatment room. The procedure is very quick, but time is needed to allow the pupil to dilate and for anaesthetic drops to be administered.

You are not required to fast and you should continue to take any prescribed medicines or eye drops as normal. Mr Horgan will ask you to sign a consent form prior to treatment and you are given ample opportunity to ask any questions from him or the Practice Nurse.

You will be asked to lie on the couch while the eye and surrounding area are cleaned with iodine to prevent infection. A sterile drape is used to cover the face. Mr Horgan will give the injection and antibiotic drops are instilled. A patch or shield is placed over the eye to protect it until you get home. You are given a bottle of antibiotic drops to use at home four times a day or four days.

The following day:

Your eye may be a little sore, bloodshot and watering for a few days. You may be aware of "blobs" or "floaters" in your vision for a day or so; this is normal and nothing to worry about.

Complications:

As with all treatments, there is a small risk of serious complications (about 1:4000) following an injection.

With Lucentis, Avastin or Eylea, this could include a retinal detachment, acute infection or a thromboembolic event (a less than 1% risk) such as a stroke, heart attack, transient ischemic attack or uncontrolled blood pressure.

After steroid treatment, there is a 50% chance of developing cataract or glaucoma in the following months.

Consequence of foregoing treatment:

AMD, RVO and DME are all serious eye conditions which, if left untreated, will result in irreversible loss of vision.

Follow up:

Mr Horgan will see you back in his clinic about a month after treatment. An OCT scan of the retina may need to be carried out and Mr Horgan will decide if further injections are necessary.

ANNE RUMBELOW
PRACTICE NURSE TO MR SIMON HORGAN
TEL: 07900 993359

It is of the utmost importance to Mr Horgan that patients understand what injection treatment involves and that it is not without risk of complications.

Please sign and date this slip for you to keep in your personal records.

This is to certify that I have received and understood the Injection Treatment and Complications leaflet and that I am happy to proceed with the course of treatment.

Signed Date

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