

Intravitreal injection treatment for diabetic macular oedema (Lucentis[®], Eylea[®], Ozurdex[®] or Iluvien[®])

This information will outline the treatment plan for diabetic macular oedema (DMO) using intravitreal injections: Lucentis[®] (ranibizumab), Eylea[®] (aflibercept), Ozurdex[®] (dexamethasone) and Iluvien[®] (flucinolone).

If you have any queries, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

Following your assessment in clinic you have been identified as suitable for one of the above intravitreal injection treatment for DMO.

A leaflet, produced by Novartis, Bayer, Allergan or Alimera Science, giving further information about treatment of DMO should have been given to you. This will outline how the injection works, how it is given, possible side effects, warnings and precautions.

The injections only take a few seconds but the appointment time will be considerably longer as other preparations are required before the injection. Most people find the injection painless; however, occasionally a brief sharp pain may be felt.

It is possible that treatment may be temporarily stopped if vision and macular thickening are within normal levels. Treatment may be permanently stopped or switched with an appropriate alternative if desired results are not achieved.

Eylea[®] treatment:

The treatment will involve 5 Eylea[®] injections, a month apart, into the affected eye. After 5 injections you will be receive bi-monthly injections for the rest of the year bringing a total of 8 injections in the 12 months period. You will have your vision checked on each visit. OCT scans to evaluate and monitor macular thickness will be done at baseline and at appropriate intervals during treatment course. In the second year most patients will need reduced number of injections.

Lucentis[®] Treatment:

The treatment will involve 3 Lucentis[®] injections, a month apart, into the affected eye. After the third injection you will be reviewed in clinic to assess the effect. Most patients will require a further 3 injections, again each a month apart.

After these 6 injections you will be reviewed each month, with assessments of your vision and a scan of the back of the eye. A decision will then be made as to whether further treatment is required. Most people need approximately 8 injections in the first year and reduced numbers in the second year.

Ozurdex[®] and Iluvien[®] treatment:

These are slow release steroid injections lasting 3-6 months with Ozurdex[®] and approximately 36 months with Iluvein[®]. Either of these injections may be recommended if Lucentis or Eylea is not be suitable due health risks or if they do not show sufficient response despite multiple injection treatment. Steroid injection treatment can be repeated if initial response is favourable.

Further information

- For general enquiries (Windsor), contact the Prince Charles Eye Unit on 01753 636 374,
- For general enquiries (Reading), contact the Eye Unit (Reading) on 0118 322 7169.
- Opening hours 9.00am – 1.00pm, 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Monday – Friday
- Visit the Trust website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

RBFT Department of Ophthalmology

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