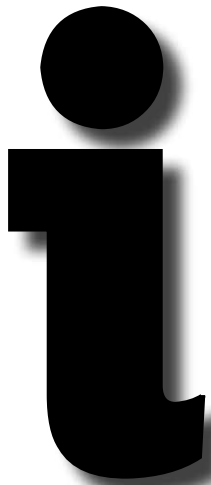


Intravitreal Injection (page 1 of 3)



What is an intravitreal injection?

An intravitreal injection is the injection of a drug into the vitreous body (the jelly-like substance at the back of the eye). It is given through the sclera (the white of the eye). It may be given as a single injection or as a course of treatment where further injections will be required.

Why do I need an intravitreal injection?

There are many different conditions that may benefit from intravitreal injections. Several different drugs are used for the treatment of eye diseases. Your doctor will have explained to you why you need to have an intravitreal injection.

The injection will be carried out by a fully trained professional who can be a doctor, nurse or another allied health professional.

How is it done?

- the procedure will be performed under local anaesthesia (eyedrops). The injector will aim to make your eye as numb as possible.
- iodine is then used to clean in and around your eye.
- a drape (cover) will be placed over your face.
- a clip will be applied to keep the eye lids apart.
- you will be asked to look away from the site of the injection.
- the injection will then be given.

Help us to help you

- please ensure you understand why you are having the treatment and the potential risks of the procedure.
- prepare any questions you may have for the doctor.
- tell the doctor/injector of any recent redness or infection in or around your eyes.

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customercare@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Role: Ophthalmology Team Members
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- tell the doctor/injector of any allergies.
- tell the doctor/injector of any recent changes in your health, especially if you have had a recent stroke or heart attack.
- DO NOT wear eye make-up on the day of the procedure.
- if possible, arrange for someone to drive you to and from the appointment or use public transport. Do not drive yourself.

After your intravitreal injection

- some blurring of vision is common after the injection. You can expect to see small bubbles/floaters in your vision for up to a week, these should gradually disappear.
- you will be given artificial tear drops to use in the injected eye to keep the eye comfortable. You can use the eye drops as often as you need to.
- your eye may feel dry and gritty following the injection. This is because of the iodine anti-septic that we use during the procedure. This usually settles down by the end of the day or next morning. In the meantime the drops will ease the sensation.
- once opened please do not use the drops for longer than 28 days. After this time the bottle should be safely thrown away. If needed, you can obtain a further supply from your GP or they can be purchased from the pharmacy.

Known risks of injection

An intravitreal injection is a safe procedure but as with all medical procedures there are risks. The following risks are associated with an injection in the eye:

- infection
- haemorrhage (bleeding)
- retinal damage (damage to the retina)
- raised intraocular pressure (increased pressure in the eye)
- inflammation
- cataract
- there is some evidence of an increased risk of heart attack/stroke.

Warning signs and symptoms to watch for after injection

The following symptoms are not normal; if you experience any of the following please call the Eye Clinic immediately for advice:

- severe and constant pain
- new pain after the first day that is getting worse
- redness getting worse
- significant decrease in vision
- pus or discharge from the eye
- severe, constant floaters
- a curtain or veil across your vision.

Contact details

Eye Clinic - weekdays between 8.30 - 5pm

01722 336262 ext 5366

Evenings or week-ends (emergencies only)

contact your GP or go to your nearest Emergency Department.

Appointment related queries

Grace Whitehorn, AMD co-ordinator (Salisbury) - 01722 429351

Jeanette Cheshire, AMD co-ordinator (Warminster) - 01985 224706