

Patient information

Lucentis

Your eye doctor has already given you a patient information booklet describing the various forms of age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) and their treatment.

The doctor has found that you have the wet-form and need to be started on eye injections to treat it. These injections are currently the most effective treatment for wet ARMD. They work by penetrating into the nerve layer at the back of the eye (the retina). The macula is the most important part of the retina and is responsible for your central vision. Over time, the injections close up the leaking blood vessels affecting the macula, which should reduce the swelling in the macula, and hopefully improve your vision.

Depending on how the wet macular degeneration responds, these injections may be given on multiple occasions over 2 years in the affected eye.

You should not feel anything during the eye injections, since your eye is numbed with anaesthetic drops prior to the injections. You should also use antibiotics drops for 3 days prior to and 5 days after the injections (doctor should have given a prescription for this). You can take a couple of Paracetamol tablets (500mg) in the morning of the injection (if not allergic). Please continue to take any other eye drops that you already use (like, for glaucoma).

Will my vision improve with the injection?

The majority of patients (up to 90%) will have stabilisation of their vision. Up to 75% will have some gain in vision. Up to 40% can improve by up to 2 lines in vision.

What are the risks of having the injections?

You need to know about the side effects:

- Up to 3% of patients may have a stroke or mini-stroke during the 2 year course, but it is not clear if this is due to the injections or the age-related frailty of the patients undergoing the treatment.
- Less than 1% of patients may have a blinding eye infection (Endophthalmitis), raised pressure in the eye or develop retinal detachment.

Is there any reason why I cannot have the injections?

- The injections cannot be given to people who have had a stroke, mini-stroke or heart failure in the past 3 months.
- It will not be used in the presence of infection / inflammation in or around the surrounding tissues of the eye.
- Patients with dementia / learning difficulties are unsuitable.

If you require any further assistance or are concerned after you have been discharged, please do not hesitate in contacting the Eye Department on 01384 456111 ext 3625

Author Mr. S. Shafquat, Consultant Ophthalmologist