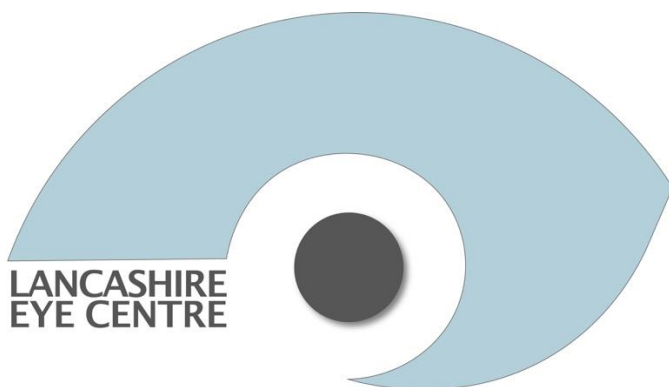


Information for patients and carers

Intravitreal Injection



What is an intravitreal injection?

Intravitreal injection is a procedure to inject anti-angiogenic (anti-VEGF) medication directly into the eye. The injections are used to treat some eye conditions such as:

- Diabetic macular oedema (DMO)
- Proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR)
- Retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
- Wet age-related macular degeneration (WAMD)
- Choroidal neovascularisation (CNV)
- Any other retinal condition causing fluid to leak under the retina

These conditions are caused by damage to the back of the eye because of the growth of leaky, abnormal blood vessels and swelling. A course of injections is required and the frequency of these will depend upon the cause and response to the treatment.

There are several different medications that can be given this way. The ones commonly used here are:

- Ranibizumab (Rimmyrah and Ongavia)
- Aflibercept (Eylea, Eydenzelt)
- Faricimab (Vabysmo)

There are leaflets available in the Eye Unit with more information on each individual medication. Please ask a member of staff if you would like one.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you weigh over 25 stones
- If you have problems standing and/or need a hoist to transfer
- If you need a language or BSL interpreter

Preparation for the injection

There are no special preparations for an injection so you can eat, drink and take any medication as normal. It is advisable not to drive as your vision in the injected eye may be impaired.

On arrival in the department, you will have your vision and blood pressure checked and if required you may have your eye pressure measured. You will have a wristband with your details, such as date of birth and address, to ensure we correctly know who we are dealing with at each stage.

Depending on the stage of your treatment plan, you may also require a scan of the eye.

The procedure involves an injection into the eye

This is done by a doctor or a trained nurse injector. You will be positioned on a clinic couch and several drops will be administered to numb and clean the eye. Your eye will be covered by a small surgical sheet (a drape) to keep the area sterile. A small clip (speculum) will be used to keep the eye open. The injection is then given.

Discomfort is minimal, similar to that of having blood taken from your arm. The procedure takes five to seven minutes, but the injection itself is over in less than 20 seconds.

After the injection

You can usually go straight home following the procedure. It is normal for the eye to be blurry for approximately 24-36 hours after the injection, and you may have floaters which should disappear in a few days. You may also have some discomfort following the injection for around 24-36 hours.

You may be more sensitive to light and wearing sunglasses may help with this. It is important to avoid rubbing or touching the eye and avoid getting water in the eye or swimming for a few days following the injection.

Is it safe to have the injection?

As with any procedure it is possible to have side effects, the most common of these are:

- Pain or increased discomfort
- Eye redness
- Blurred or decreased vision
- Increase of floaters
- Sensitivity to light

Serious infections inside the eye rarely occur (1:2000 per injection). Significant loss of vision due to the injection is rare.

If you have any concerns following the injection you can contact the triage line for advice on 01257 245346.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Lancashire Eye Centre: **01257 245151**

Triage Line: **01257 245346**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

Follow us on social media @lancshospitals

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

Department: Ophthalmology

Division: Surgery

Production date: November 2025

Review date: November 2028

JR 1399 v1