

FORSTER EYE SURGERY

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INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS INFORMATION SHEET

What is an intravitreal injection?

An injection in the vitreous, which is the jelly like substance inside your eye. It is performed to place medicines inside the eye, near the retina.

Why is an intravitreal injection performed?

Intravitreal injections are used to deliver drugs to the retina and other structures in the back of the eye. Common conditions treated with intravitreal injections include diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular diseases and ocular inflammation.

What is the intravitreal injection procedure?

The procedure takes around 10 minutes. We will place you in a comfortable position. Anaesthetic (numbing) drops will be placed in your eye and your eye and eyelids will be cleaned with an iodine antiseptic solution. The eye is held open with an instrument. Additional anaesthetic is placed on your eye and the injection site marked. The medicine is then injected into your vitreous. You may feel slight pressure on the eye when this is done but you should not experience significant pain. You may be given drops or ointment to use at home.

What are the side effects?

After the injection you may have a gritty feeling in the eye, and the eye might look bloodshot. This will resolve over a few days. You might see floaters which will become smaller and disappear over 1-2 weeks.

Are there any risks?

Injecting any medication in the eye may result in increased pressure within the eye, inflammation, or more serious side effects such as cataract formation, bleeding within the eye, damage to the retina (retinal detachment or tear) or other eye structures. These side effects are rare, estimated less than 1 in 800 injections. It is possible that you may get an infection within your eye as a result of the intravitreal injection. The chance of an infection is low (estimated at 1 in 1,000 injections). An infection may lead to vision loss or, in rare cases, loss of the eye.

