



Approved treatments for wet macular degeneration

This information outlines the NICE approved treatments for wet macular degeneration. If you have any queries, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), a government body, has approved four treatments for wet macular degeneration: Ranibizumab (Lucentis or Biosimilar), Aflibercept (Eylea), Brolucizumab (Beovu) and Faricimab (Vabysmo).

Research has shown all these treatments are equally effective for wet macular degeneration, although Aflibercept, Brolucizumab and Faricimab may achieve the same visual outcome with less frequent injection.

The Trust has a leaflet called 'Treatment of wet macular degeneration by intravitreal injection with Ranibizumab (Lucentis), Aflibercept (Eylea) or Faricimab (Vabysmo): Information and consent', which outlines the risks in more detail. Your consultant or nursing team can give you a copy of this leaflet to take home to read.

Treatment regimes: Treat and extend

Ranibizumab, Aflibercept, Brolucizumab and Faricimab all require three injections, each a month apart. This is called the 'loading phase' of treatment.

After this, most patients will be placed on a 'treat and extend' regimen. This means patients receive an injection at every visit. At every visit, a scan of the retina is used to assess disease activity and direct the interval time to the next injection.

Choice of treatments

If you are a new patient with wet macular degeneration, you have a choice of receiving Ranibizumab, Aflibercept, Brolucizumab or Faricimab.

Your doctor will give you guidance in making this choice. As there is currently some concern about greater side effects with Brolucizumab, most of the patients are being treated with Ranibizumab, Aflibercept or Faricimab. If poor response is noted with a particular drug, you will be given the option of switching to another medication.

Contacting us

If you have a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If urgent, please attend Eye Casualty or call 111.

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Eye Casualty: Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat 8.30am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays.
Dorrell Ward (Reading):	0118 322 7172 (24 hours a day)
Eye Day Unit (Reading):	0118 322 7123 (Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)
Eye Day Unit (PCEU Windsor)	01753 636496 Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

P Kumar RBFT Ophthalmology, October 2023

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