

Intravitreal injection treatment for diabetic macular oedema (Lucentis[®], Eylea[®], Vabysmo[®], Ozurdex[®] or Iluvien[®])

This information will outline the treatment plan for diabetic macular oedema (DMO) using intravitreal injections: Lucentis[®] (ranibizumab), Eylea[®] (aflibercept), Vabysmo[®] (Faracimab), Ozurdex[®] (dexamethasone) and Iluvien[®] (flucinolone). If you have any queries, please speak to your doctor or nurse.

Key points

- Following your assessment in clinic, you have been identified as suitable for one of the above intravitreal injection treatment for DMO.
- A leaflet, produced by Novartis, Bayer, Roche, Allergan or Alimera Science, giving further information about treatment of DMO should have been given to you. This will outline how the injection works, how it is given, possible side effects, warnings and precautions.
- The injections only take a few seconds but the appointment time will be considerably longer as other preparations are required before the injection. Most people find the injection painless; however, occasionally you may feel a brief sharp pain.
- It is possible that treatment may be temporarily stopped if your vision and macular thickening are within normal levels. Treatment may be permanently stopped or switched to an appropriate alternative if the desired results are not achieved.

Eylea® treatment:

The treatment will involve five Eylea® injections, a month apart, into the affected eye. After five injections, you will be receive bi-monthly injections for the rest of the year, bringing a total of eight injections in the 12-month period. This regime can also be tailored for individual patients. You will have your vision checked on each visit. We will carry out OCT (optical coherence tomography) scans to evaluate and monitor macular thickness at the start, and at appropriate intervals during the course of your treatment. In the second year, most patients will need a reduced number of injections.

Lucentis® treatment:

The treatment will involve three Lucentis® injections, a month apart, into the affected eye. After the third injection, you will be reviewed in clinic to assess the effect. Most patients will require a further three injections, again each a month apart.

After these six injections, you will be reviewed each month, with assessments of your vision and a scan of the back of the eye. We will then make a decision as to whether further treatment is required. Most people need approximately eight injections in the first year and reduced numbers in the second year.

Vabysmo® treatment:

The treatment involved four Vabysmo® injections, a month apart into the effected eye. After the fourth injection, you will be reviewed in the clinic to assess the effect. Some patients may require continuation of treatment with increased time interval (Treat and Extend regime).

Ozurdex® and Iluvien® treatment:

These are slow release steroid injections lasting 3-6 months with Ozurdex® and approximately 36 months with Iluvein®. Either of these injections may be recommended if Lucentis or Eylea is not be suitable, due health risks or if they do not show sufficient response despite

multiple injection treatment. Steroid injection treatment can be repeated if the initial response is positive.

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.

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Next review due: October 2025