

INTRAVITREAL INJECTION OF TRIAMCINOLONE

What is Intravitreal Injection?

This is an injection of a small volume (0.1 ml) of the steroid Triamcinolone into the vitreous gel of the eye.

What is Triamcinolone?

This is a long-acting steroid that has been used for many years for injection into joints, muscles, and around the eyes for controlling inflammation.

What is new?

Although Triamcinolone is a licensed drug, its use in the eye is what is called an OFF-Licence use. This steroid has been used as an injection outside the eye for many years. Triamcinolone has been used as an injection into the eye for a few years to control the swelling of the retina (macular oedema) in diabetic retinopathy (retina affected by diabetes), vascular occlusions (blockage of veins of the retina) and in other conditions including age related macular degeneration (retinal changes due to ageing).

What are the benefits?

The steroid has been shown to be beneficial in reducing the macular oedema when laser treatment has been ineffective, or in combination with laser treatment. The main aim is to stabilise eyesight but this may potentially improve sight in some patients.

What are the risks?

The potential risks are as summarised below:

- 1 Increase in eye pressure (Glaucoma): this can happen in about 30% of patients. The pressure rise can usually be controlled by using eye drops. Some patients may even need surgery to control pressure
- 2 Development or progression of cataract: nearly 25% of patients may notice this and may need a cataract operation at some stage
- 3 Eye inflammation: although the steroid is meant to control inflammation it can also cause inflammation if the eye reacts to the chemicals in the injection

- 4 Infection (endophthalmitis) and severe loss of vision: a serious complication such as this may occur in less than 1% of patients. This may need a further injection of an antibiotic into the eye to control the infection. However, the response to antibiotic treatment is unpredictable
- 5 Other problems: bleeding in the eye and retinal detachment.

What happens if you decide to go ahead?

The operation is performed as a daycase procedure under local anaesthesia in the operating theatre. After the operation, you will be allowed to go home with antibiotic eye drops. You will be seen by the consultant regularly, starting one week after the operation. If your eye pressure needs to be checked, you may be seen sooner than one week.

Do I need repeated injections?

This is a long acting steroid and its effect may last three to six months. If the injection resulted in some benefit to you, further injections may be considered after discussion with you.

What to look for after the operation?

The eye may appear a little red after the operation.

You may notice black spots (floaters) like a cloud of dust.

If you notice any of the following:

- eye becoming very red with or without pain
- sticky discharge from the eye
- sudden deterioration in eye sight.

you should contact the Eye Clinic at Doncaster Royal Infirmary on (01302) 366666 ext 3672 between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Outside these hours, please contact the Eye Ward at Doncaster Royal Infirmary on (01302) 366666 ext 3321 at any time.