

INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS

What is an Intravitreal Injection?

An intravitreal injection is an injection into the vitreous, which is the jelly like substance inside your eye.

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, thus avoiding effects on the rest of the body. Common conditions treated with intravitreal injections include; diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular diseases, and ocular inflammation.

What are the side effects?

Following the injection you may experience;

- Blurred vision temporarily
- Temporary discomfort in the eye which can be relieved by painkillers
- Black floaters which move in front of your eye, these will become smaller and disappear over 1 or 2 weeks

Are there any risks involved?

There is a risk of complications with intravitreal injections. These are rare and include, but are not limited to:

- Serious eye infection - one in 1,000 cases
- Bleeding inside the eye
- Reduction in vision
- Glaucoma (Increase pressure in the eye)
- Cataract (clouding of the lens)
- Retinal Detachment (separation of the layers at the back of the eye)

Significant loss of vision due to the injection is very uncommon.



ON THE DAY

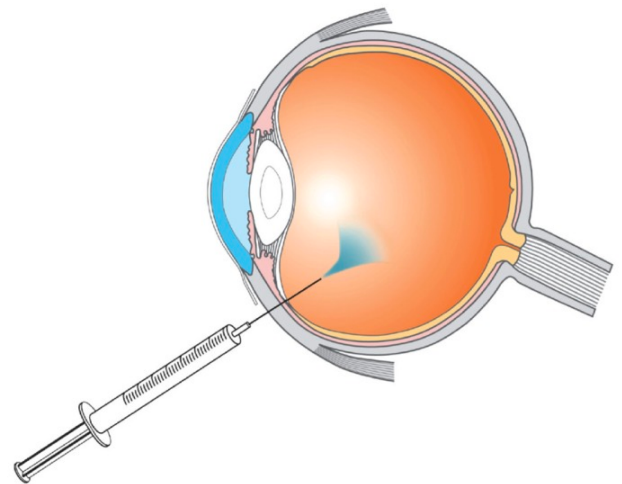
- Please allow 1-2 hours for your appointment
- There is no need to fast prior to your appointment
- You should take your regular medications on the day of your appointment
- You cannot drive on the day of your injection as you will have received eye drops that will blur your vision Please arrange for your own transport to and from the clinic.

DURING THE PROCEDURE

Firstly you will meet a clinical assistant who will check your vision and eye pressure. You will be asked to sign a consent form. The procedure takes five to ten minutes, but the injection itself takes no more than 20 seconds to perform.

You will be lying back comfortably on a recliner chair. Anaesthetic drops will be instilled to numb your eye and minimise discomfort. Your eye, lashes and lids will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution to prevent risk of infection to the eye. A small clasp may be used to keep the eye open and to keep the lid and lashes away from the site during the injection. You will be asked to keep looking at a certain point or direction; at this stage it is important that you keep as still as possible. When the medication is injected you may feel a slight pressure sensation on the eye but this will only last for less than 20 seconds.

Your vision will be assessed by counting the doctors fingers. Your eyelids will be cleaned again and a follow up appointment will be arranged..



AFTER THE PROCEDURE

The doctor may apply light pressure to the area with a cotton-tip swab. The eyelid retractor will be removed. Your eye pressure may be checked. Your doctor will talk to you about eye drops if required, and a follow up visit.

Avoid rubbing the treated eye for 1 day after the treatment. Afterwards you may notice one or more “floaters” or dark spots moving in your vision. When you look in a mirror, you may notice a red spot on your eye at the site of the injection. This is normal.

When to Call

If you have a decrease in vision or pain in the treated eye, call Terrace Eye Centre right away. Please call if you have any other questions or concerns.

