

Injection therapy (intra-vitreous injections)

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What is Injection Therapy?

This treatment involves the injection of medication into the eye. The drug works by reducing fluid leakage from blood vessels around the macula. This in turn reduces swelling of the macula. Studies have shown that this treatment is effective in preventing visual loss and can improve vision in some patients.

A course of injections is required. At the start of treatment, usually one injection per month is needed. It is important to attend all appointments while receiving injection therapy as this treatment will not work if you do not have the injection at a regular interval. The length of time between injections, and how long you will need to stay on injection therapy will depend on how you respond to the treatment.

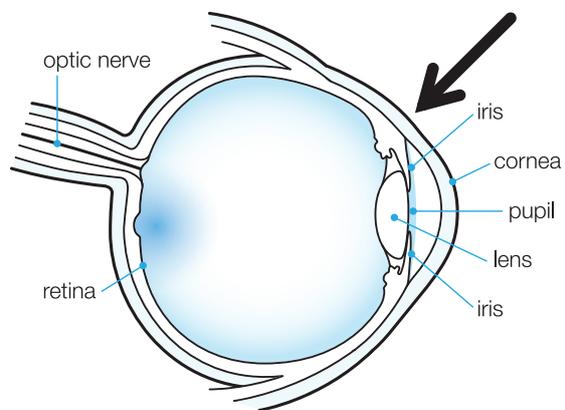
What happens during injection therapy?

You will be made comfortable in a reclined position for the injection. Numbing drops will be placed on your eye. Dr Adams will clean around your eye. More numbing drops will be placed in your eye at this point. You will be asked to look up or down to measure the area to be injected. The treatment is injected with a fine needle and takes only a few seconds. During the injection you may feel a pressure sensation. After the injection the eye is rinsed and some lubricant drops are instilled. The whole procedure usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Your vision will be a little blurry for the rest of the day.

- After injection therapy, you may be given: lubricating drops – use at least

every two hours in the daytime for the first day or two and then as needed

- 1 oxybuprocaine (anesthetic). Use this if the eye is very scratchy *on the same day as the injection*, with the lubricants. Put in the drops and have a rest, it should right itself.



A diagram of the eye. The arrow represents the location on the eye where the injection is given.

What are the side effects of injection therapy?

Common side effects include:

- Redness in the area of the eye that was injected.
- A sore or gritty sensation for one to two days. The lubricating drops will help to relieve this temporary discomfort.
- small round floating objects in your vision. These are air bubbles from the injection, and are harmless; they will disappear after a day.
- An increase in eye pressure after injection therapy. This can be treated with eye drops or tablets.

Injection therapy (intra-vitreous injections) *continued*

Serious side effects of injection therapy are uncommon. They include bleeding or inflammation in the eye, subconjunctival haemorrhage, cataract, retinal detachment, infections inside the eye, and very rarely permanent loss of vision. These happen in less than one in 1,000 people and will be discussed during your clinic appointment. There is a very small risk of strokes and heart attacks – it is better to avoid injection therapy if you have had a stroke or heart

attack in the previous three months.

If your eye becomes progressively more red and painful, or if your vision gets worse after injection therapy, this might indicate infection and normally occurs 5–7 days after the injection. Contact Dr Adams at **Insight Eye Surgery** on **07 3154 1515** (Brisbane) or **07 5345 5011** (Noosa) in business hours or attend your local hospital emergency department after hours.