

*Diseases and
Surgery of the
Retina and
Vitreous*

INTRAVITREAL TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE

You are being advised to receive a treatment that involves injection of a steroid into the vitreous of the eye in order to stabilize or potentially improve vision in your eye. The vitreous is the space behind the lens and in front of the retina. By injecting the drug directly into the eye, we are able to maximize the effects of the steroid inside the eye while avoiding side effects elsewhere in the body.

Steroids have been shown to reduce the leakage from blood vessels within the eye in many diseases including diabetes, vein occlusions, ocular inflammation, cystoid macular edema, and macular degeneration.

What to expect during the treatment

Before undergoing this treatment, your physician will ask you to treat your eye for 3 days with a topical antibiotic to prepare it for the injection and to minimize the risks of infection. The treatment itself consists of 3 steps:

1. Anesthetic – to minimize any discomfort
2. Sterilization – the eye will be washed with a special soap
3. Injection – the sterile drug will be painlessly injected into the eye

Following the treatment, the physician will look briefly inside your eye to visualize the drug. The assistant or the doctor will place a drop of antibiotic inside the eye and a patch may be placed over the treated eye. You may remove this patch, if one is placed, when you return home. You will be instructed to use an antibiotic drop 4 times a day for the next 3 days. You will be re-examined one to three days after the injection and then again one week to ten days after the injection.

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What to expect after the treatment

The “white part of your eye”, or the overlying conjunctiva, in the area of the injection may be red after the injection and may remain that way for the next week. There should be no pain in the eye following the treatment. You will likely “see” the injected drug as small spots or dots floating in your vision or as a small “cloud of dust”. You should not be alarmed by their appearance and these will resolve as the drug gradually dissolves.

You should however alert you physician to the following symptoms:

1. *Pain*
2. *Increased redness or discharge from the eye or the eyelids*
3. *Sudden decline in vision*

Possible complications

As with any treatment, there may be rare complications. Your physician has weighed those risks against the possible benefits that this treatment may offer. There is a less than one percent chance for an infection in the eye that may require additional treatment with antibiotics or in very rare cases eye surgery. Treatment may result in a temporary rise in the pressure inside the eye that may require drops. In exceptionally rare instances, these may result in an overall decrease in vision, loss of vision, or even in the loss of the eye. Treatment in one eye does NOT affect the other eye.

Hopefully, treatment will lead to stabilization of vision, and sometimes leads to vision improvement. The medicine lasts for 3 months in the eye. The beneficial effect may take one month to occur.

Please ask you doctor any questions you may have.