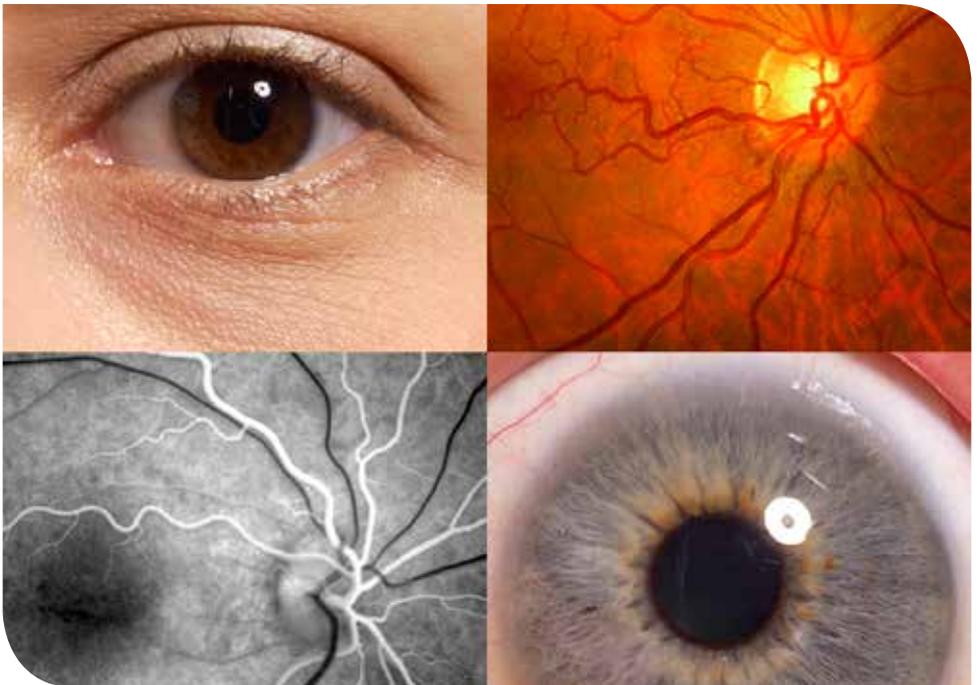


Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) treatment information

Eye Department



Patient information leaflet

The doctor has recently advised you that you have a condition called age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

The eye consists of many layers. The innermost is the Retina, and a small area within this layer is known as the Macula. The macula is responsible for seeing fine detail and it is here that the degeneration occurs. With AMD you lose the ability to see fine detail, both close up and at a distance. The vision affected is only central, peripheral vision remains normal. When looking at an object the outline may be clear whilst centrally it is blurred.

There are two types of AMD

- **Dry AMD** is a gradual deterioration of the macula whereby cells die and are not renewed. At present there is no treatment for this type.
- **Wet AMD** is where abnormal blood vessels grow into the macula, these are fragile and tend to leak causing a build-up of fluid. Treatment takes the form of injections to help stop the growth and control the leaking. You may also be required to have a scan at the back of your eye called an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT).

Lucentis injection

You will have an appointment in the eye clinic every four weeks

- Visit 1 Injection appointment
 - Visit 2 Injection appointment
 - Visit 3 Injection appointment
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All at 4 week intervals.

- Visit 4 Review appointment
-

Eylea injection

Your first three appointments will be in the eye clinic every four weeks, followed by a fourth appointment whereby we will include an OCT scan and possible dilation of your eyes so **please do not drive** to these appointments.

- Visit 1 Injection appointment
 - Visit 2 Injection appointment
 - Visit 3 Injection appointment
-

All at 4 week intervals

What can I expect at my first injection appointment?

Please check in at reception and take a seat. A nurse will call you for your eye test, shortly afterwards you will see the Doctor. Local anaesthetic drops will be put into your eye to numb it. The doctor will clean your eyelids and surrounding skin to prevent infection. A drape may be placed over your eye and face to keep the area sterile. A clip will be placed between your eyelids and the injection given. Lubricant drops will be put into your eye and vision assessed.

What can I expect after the treatment?

You will be given the lubricant drops to take home. Please put these drops into your eye 4 times a day for 4 days. Remember to wash your hands before putting in the drops and not to touch or rub your eye. We will check with you that you have future appointments booked, and if not, make them for you.

What are the side effects?

Red eye, possibly due to a small bleed on the white part of the eye. This should clear in a week or two.

Your eye may feel sore, gritty or you may have slight discomfort.

You may see 'specks' or 'blobs' in your vision.

All these symptoms are temporary.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

At present there are no other treatments available for this condition. If however this changes in the future you will be made aware.

During the course of your treatment please inform us of any changes in your health or medication.

If your eye becomes red, painful or if the vision deteriorates following your injection please contact us immediately on the telephone numbers below:

Between the hours of 9am–6pm **01483 571122 ext 4648**

If out of hours **01483 571122** and ask to speak
to the on call Eye Doctor

Reference sources

- Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Intravitreal injection Policy and Procedure 2013.
- The Royal College of Ophthalmologist Age-related Macular Degeneration Guidelines for Management September 2013.
- NICE guidelines Macular degeneration-age-related March 2010.

Contact details

Eye Department

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 4648

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

Past review date: November 2017

Future review date: November 2020

Author: Keri Eccarius

PIN171127–1365

