

What to expect after your intravitreal injection

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You may have received an intravitreal injection of Lucentis / Eylea/ Avastin today. For some patients an injection can be painful, in some instances it will be felt as a prick.

In almost all instances, after the injection, you will be asked to count fingers. If after the injection , you feel you cannot see anything please inform the doctor, who may need to do more tests or perform an additional procedure related to the injection, before he or she decides you are ok to leave.

Almost all patients will be given an antibiotic drop bottle or antibiotic ointment. This is to try and reduce the chances of an infection. Please put in the drops 3 to 4 times a day on the day of injection and then 4 times a day for 3 days after the injection. Some patients may also be given an eye gel called Viscotears. This is to try and improve the corneal healing after small scratches or corneal dryness.

You may expect the vision to be blurry for a while after the intravitreal injection. This is in part due to the injection and also due to the dilation of the pupil. This is expected to get better in 3 to 4 hours as the drops wear off.

Sometimes a small bubble of air can get into the eye with the injection. It can look like a small round grey blob in the bottom part of your vision. This is usually harmless and goes away in 24 to 48 hours.

Sometimes the cornea can get small scratches due to the speculum (the clip that keeps the eye open during the injection). In such instances, the eye may feel gritty and sore. You may feel this as soon as the anaesthetic wears off in 20-30 minutes. You may need to use lubricant gels like Viscotears or Lacrilube to keep the eye comfortable. These are available in a pharmacy, "over the counter", without a prescription.

If your eye gets red and painful with decreased vision, this may be a sign of infection. If you have these symptoms, please attend the eye casualty as soon as possible. Do not delay to come to any eye casualty, if you suspect an infection.

In the first instance, try to contact Mr Saeed's secretary 01372-275161 option 2

Local Eye casualty departments are as follows

Moorfields eye hospital, City road, London has a 24 hours casualty

St Helier Eye Unit has an eye casualty, Monday to Friday 9 to 4:30. (walk in ; no appointment is necessary)

Outside these hours and on Saturday and Sunday, please attend the Eye department at St Georges Hospital in Tooting.