

Triamcinolone intravitreal injections

This is a drug which is injected into the eye, rather than given as drops or ointment.

What does this involve?

It is an outpatient procedure that takes approx 10 minutes. First, anaesthetic drops are put in the eye to make it numb. You are then asked to lie down on a couch and the eye is cleaned with a special disinfectant. The face is covered with a special clean cloth, which lies lightly over the face. It can be held away from the mouth to allow plenty of air if you feel claustrophobic. A small clip is placed in the eye that holds the eyelids open. After more drops the injection is given, lasting about 5-10 seconds. You may experience a pressure sensation, it is not usually painful. A cotton bud is pressed against the surface of the eye for 1-2 minutes to allow the wound to seal and antibiotic drops are given. You are allowed to go home, and need to use the drops given as instructed.

What are the risks?

Since the needle is entering the eye there is a small risk of infection, serious bleeding or retinal detachment. These risks are rare, about 1 in 1000 or less.

Specific risks for Triamcinolone

If you are having a steroid injected there are additional risks of cataract getting worse, so there is a 1 in 3 chance of requiring cataract surgery within a year usually with Triamcinolone. There is a chance of the pressure in the eye rising. This is usually temporary and controlled with eye drops in most patients.

If you are having a steroid injected there are additional risks of cataract getting worse, so there is a 1 in 3 chance of requiring cataract surgery within a year usually with Triamcinolone. There is a chance of the pressure in the eye rising. This is usually temporary and controlled with eye drops in most patients. Uncommonly, (less than 5%) patients may need additional procedures to control the pressure. Triamcinolone also contains a preservative that can cause irritation to some patients. The risk of this can increase with the dose of Triamcinolone used. We only use very small doses here. Triamcinolone is not licensed for use as an injection for the eye. This means it was not made for this purpose, but it has been widely used by ophthalmologists around the world since there was no available alternative. This option will only be offered if the benefit from the treatment is thought to be more the risks of side effects. This decision is made on an individual basis with each patient and requires the patient's specific agreement to go ahead with the treatment. In this hospital currently there is no alternative treatment available for your condition.

For central and branch retinal vein occlusion

With Ozurdex there is a 40% chance of gaining 3 lines of vision compared with 20% without treatment. Repeated injections are usually needed after 3-4 months to maintain the effect.

Contact details 9.00am to 5.00pm

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