

Information for Patients

Ozurdex Intravitreal Injection

What is Ozurdex?

Ozurdex is an anti-inflammatory drug. It is a type of steroid called dexamethasone. The medication is contained within a long-lasting implant that is injected directly inside the eye. As the implant slowly dissolves in the vitreous gel it releases dexamethasone for up to 6 months.

Why is Ozurdex being recommended for my eye condition?

Ozurdex was shown in studies to successfully reduce the swelling that occurs in the centre of the retina (the macula) when there is a blockage in the retinal vein, a disease called retinal vein occlusion. If your consultant feels that your condition could benefit from Ozurdex the doctor examining you will explain how Ozurdex might help you.

Ozurdex treatment is given to improve vision by reducing the swelling of the macula. When there has been a retinal vein occlusion, the blockage has other effects on the blood circulation of the eye. Therefore the individual results will vary.

How is Ozurdex given?

Dilating drops will be put in your eye to enlarge the pupil (the black hole in the middle of the iris) and anaesthetic drops will be put in to numb the surface of your eye. The skin around the eye and the surface of your eye is washed with an antibacterial solution to reduce the risk of infection. Your face is then covered with a sterile drape. A local anaesthetic injection might be given under the surface lining of your eye.

The Ozurdex implant is injected into the vitreous humour (the jelly like substance inside the back of your eye) using a specially designed applicator. You might need more than one injection. This will depend on your eye condition and how it responds to treatment. Your ophthalmologist (eye doctor)

will tell you how many injections you will need based on the results of the follow-up examinations.

What are the risks of treatment?

The potential risks are outlined below and will be discussed with you by your eye doctor. As with any medicine, side effects are possible with Ozurdex. However, not everyone who takes the drug will experience side effects and overall the risks from treatment are very low.

Risks of intravitreal eye injections

Serious complications of the intravitreal injection procedure include:

- Infection (endophthalmitis)
- Raised eye pressure
- Cataract formation
- Retinal detachment
- Bleeding

Some of these serious complications can lead to severe, permanent loss of vision. The risk of endophthalmitis ranges from 0.02% - 0.09% (1 in 1000 to 5000 injections). The likelihood of losing vision because of infection is less than 1:1000.

More common side effects include:

- Temporary eye pain, often relieved by pain relieving medication
- Headache
- Conjunctival bleeding (bloodshot eye)
- Floaters in your eye
- Blurred vision
- Inflammation
- Visual disturbances such as small specks in the vision

Steroid injections such as Ozurdex can specifically increase the risk of:

- Cataract formation
- Glaucoma (raise in eye pressure leading to potential damage to the nerve in the eye)

The risk of eye pressure rise is 1 in 4 but the great majority can be controlled with drops and most of the time even these drops can be withdrawn. The likelihood of losing vision because of intraocular pressure rise is less than 1:100.

The treatment might not be effective for you

Your condition and vision might not get better or could become worse despite these injections. Any, or all of the complications described above could cause decreased vision and/or have a possibility of causing blindness. Additional procedures might be needed to treat these complications. During follow-up visits you will be checked for possible problems.

Reducing the risk of infection

Antibiotic eye drops will be prescribed following your injection to reduce the risk of infection. If you have an eye infection on the day of your planned treatment the injection might have to be delayed until the infection has been resolved. Please inform your doctor or nurse if you have a sticky eye.

Patient responsibilities

You must immediately contact the hospital on the numbers given below if any of the following signs of infection or complication develop:

- Pain
- Blurred or reduced vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Redness of your eye (increasing compared to immediately after your injection)
- Sticky discharge from your eye

You should avoid rubbing your eyes or swimming for 3 days following each injection to reduce the risk of infection. Please keep all post injection appointments or scheduled telephone calls, so that potential complications can be checked for.

What if I change my mind?

If you have any concerns, please discuss these with the doctor. You can change your mind about your treatment at any time.

Contact details

If you require further advice or do not understand anything contained in this leaflet please contact the Macular Treatment Centre on **0161 276 3341/5572** Monday-Thursday 9.00 am-5.00 pm, Friday 9.00 am-4.00 pm.



You may also contact the Emergency Eye Department on 0161 276 5597 available 8.00 am-9.00 pm everyday including public holidays.

If your problem is urgent and the departments above are closed or you are unable to get an answer, please ring Ward 55 on 0161 276 5512 available 24 hours every day.

