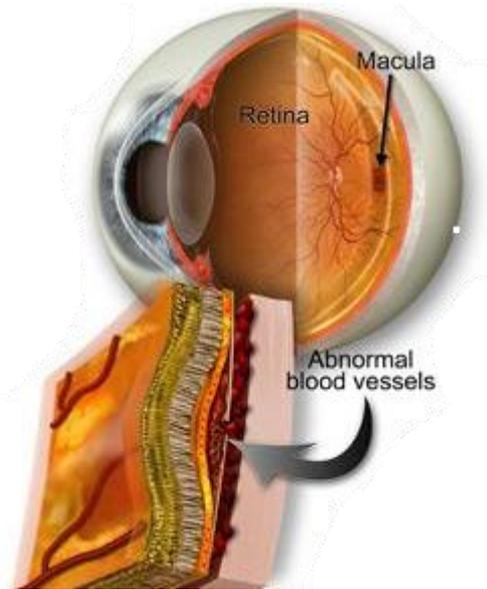


## PATIENT INFORMATION FOR VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR (VEGF) BLOCKERS (Eylea and Lucentis)

Lucentis and Eylea are drugs that have been developed to treat the disease called age-related macular degeneration (**AMD**), diabetic macular degeneration (**DMO**) and swelling due to blocked blood vessels (**CRVO/BRVO**). You have been diagnosed with one of these conditions and therefore your doctor has considered using this drug for your treatment.

**AMD** is a progressive condition in the eye which, if left untreated, may cause you to lose the central vision in your eye(s) because the central part of your retina (the film in the back of your eye) is swollen. This swelling is caused by abnormal blood vessels growing in the retina that are very fragile and therefore leak blood and fluid. It is this fluid accumulation and swelling that is mostly responsible for your vision loss, although the DRY AMD component is likely also contributing to this drop in vision and wavy lines.



Lucentis and Eylea block VEGF, a molecule that is involved in the growth of new blood vessels as well as their leakage. Before you are treated with them, you need to know the risks and benefits so you can make an informed decision. This “Patient Information Sheet” provides you with information about the Lucentis and Eylea. Please read this information carefully and discuss it with anyone you wish. This may include your doctor, a friend or a relative. If you have further questions regarding your treatment options, we suggest you consult your doctor who knows your clinical history and is best able to advise you on the risks and benefits of treatments.

Lucentis and Eylea are a compound that is given by injection into the eye. Lucentis has been available with prescription on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) since August 2007 and Eylea was approved in December 2012.

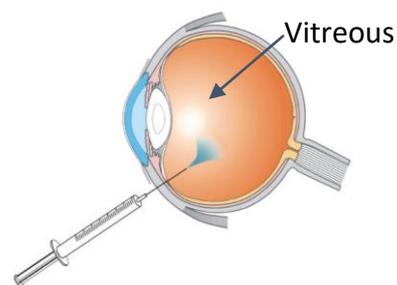
While you receive this treatment you may have any, or none, of the side effects described below. Problems or side effects that are not yet known could also occur. Many side effects go away shortly after you discontinue therapy, but in some cases, **side effects can be serious, long lasting, or permanent**. Should any problem occur, you will be given appropriate care for your condition and you may be withdrawn from further treatment.

### BENEFITS OF THE TREATMENT

There is no guarantee that you will receive any benefit from the treatment received. However, results from clinical trials have shown that **vision remained stable or increased in over 71-77% of patients** being treated with Lucentis. Similar results were found for Eylea. Further, vision increased in 25-40% of patients treated with Lucentis such that they were able to read 3 lines or more of the reading chart (that you are normally tested with) than before they started the treatment.

## WHAT IS AN INTRAVITREAL INJECTION?

This is an injection into the vitreous, which is the jelly-like substance inside your eye. It is performed to place medicines inside the eye, near the retina.



## WHY IS AN INTRAVITREAL INJECTION PERFORMED?

Intravitreal injections are used to deliver drugs to the retina and other structures in the back of the eye, thus avoiding effects on the rest of the body. Common conditions treated with intravitreal injections include diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration (AMD), retinal vascular diseases and ocular inflammation.

## WHAT IS THE INTRAVITREAL INJECTION PROCEDURE?

The actual procedure takes around 15 minutes. We will lie you in a comfortable position and anaesthetic (numbing) drops will be placed in your eye. Your eye and eyelids will also be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and once you are numb from the anaesthetic drops, a local anaesthetic injection is injected under the conjunctiva (skin of the eye). Following this, the medicine is injected into your vitreous. You may feel slight pressure on the eye when this is done, but you should not experience pain. After the injection procedure we rinse the eye with sterile saline and a protective gel drop (liquid bandage) will be placed in your eye before you leave. We don't pad the eye as this can cause scratching of the eye surface.

## WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

After the injection into your eye it is **very common** to have a **gritty feeling** in the eye and sometimes a **sharp scratchy feeling**, and there may be bleeding over the white of the eye which sometimes can be quite marked. You should not worry about this, it will resolve with time. You might see floaters and occasional flashing lights; these will become smaller and disappear over a couple of days, if not sooner.



**To prevent the scratchy/gritty/sharp pain** on the day of the injection, we recommend using a thick eye lubrication drop such as **Systane Ultra UD** (or similar), every **half hour for a few hours after the injection**. These soothe the eye and prevents the eye surface from becoming irritated from the local anaesthetic and cleaning solution used during the injection.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS?

Injecting any medication into the eye has risks. It is important to understand that the risks and benefits of injections have been considered, and in your case **the risk of undertaking injections is less than the risk of vision loss from NOT having injections**. Several risks exist and include, increased pressure within the eye, inflammation, or more serious side effects such as bleeding within the eye, damage to the retina (retinal detachment or tear) or other eye structures. These side effects are rare, estimated at less than 1 in 500 injections.

It is possible that you may get an **infection** within your eye (**endophthalmitis**) as a result of the intravitreal injection. The chance of an infection is low and is estimated at about **1 in 5,000 injections**. An infection may lead to vision loss or, in rare cases, loss of the eye. Infections can be treated with a good result as long as you return quickly if you notice something going wrong.

Symptoms of infection to look for include a **severe loss of vision, pain, and/or inflammation, generally 24-48 hours post injection**. If Great Southern Specialist Centre (GSSC) is not open, go to your local GP or hospital emergency department.



# INTRAVITREAL INJECTION CONSENT

I \_\_\_\_\_, DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Give consent for the following procedure: INTRAVITREAL INJECTION INTO THE EYE(S)

Date/time of procedure: ONGOING, ON TREAT AND EXTEND PROTOCOL

This procedure has been fully explained to me by Dr Brown

Risks are rare but include:

- Infection (endophthalmitis)
  - Retinal detachment
  - Damage to lens and cataract formation
  - Inflammation (sterile endophthalmitis)
  - Other rare, unforeseen risks
- 
- I understand that the result/outcome of the procedure cannot be guaranteed
  - I consent to a sampling of my blood being taken and tested for infectious diseases, if a health member is exposed to my blood
  - I understand if immediate life threatening events happen during the procedure I will be treated accordingly
  - The Specialist has advised me of the fees for these injections.

This fee includes consumables, protective wear, medications, cost of medical equipment and scanners, sterilisation of instruments.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_