

## What it is intravitreal Avastin?

Avastin is a medication that prevents the growth of new blood vessels at the back of the eye. This is important as these blood vessels can bleed and leak, damaging the area of the eye which controls your central vision (the macula).

## How is intravitreal Avastin given?

Avastin is given by injection. The Doctor will first numb your eye using local anaesthetic so you will not feel anything. Then the Avastin is injected into your eye.

### Immediately following the procedure:

- You may notice the appearance of the medication in your vision
- Your pupil (black part of your eye) will remain dilated for approximately 3 hours
- Avoid rubbing your eye for the next week

### Once you are home:

It is common for patients to notice black spots or “floaters” over the first few days following the injection.

You may notice some fresh bleeding in the white of your eye where the injection has been. This is normal. The blood will slowly be absorbed over the next week or so.

You may experience some mild discomfort once the local anaesthetic has worn off. This can be relieved by Paracetamol or similar pain relief. Please follow the instructions on the box for dosing or ask your GP.

You may experience a “gritty” sensation in your eye – this can be relieved by closing the eye regularly or using artificial tears.

**Please seek medical attention if you experience any of the following symptoms up to two weeks after your injection:**

- **Pain unrelieved by Paracetamol**
- **Sudden change in vision**
- **Eye becomes red**

## Contact us

Eye Outpatient Department

Phone: 04 806 2675

Triage Nurse: 027 4333 477

**Hours:** 8.30am - 4pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays

Outside of these times please visit your GP or Wellington Emergency Department. Take this form with you.

Alternatively you can contact **HealthLine**, a free 24 hour, 7 day a week health information service. **Phone:** 0800 611 116