



Bevacizumab

Intravitreal Injection

More information about your medicine

June 2018

Why you need this medicine

This medicine is also referred to as '**Avastin**[®]'.

In certain diseases new blood vessels start growing in the eye. These blood vessels are weak and leak into the eye causing damage.

Bevacizumab is a medicine that helps to stop harmful blood vessels growing in the eye. It also helps to stop swelling of the retina at the back of the eye.

Before this medicine is given to you

You should not be given this medicine if:

- You are allergic to Bevacizumab
- You have an infection in or around your eye
- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding

Tell your eye doctor about the medicines you take, whether prescription or non-prescription. Also inform the doctor if any medication has changed since your last visit.

You must also tell the doctor if:

- If you have had a heart attack or stroke in the last three months
- If you have uncontrolled angina or uncontrolled high blood pressure

How this medicine is given

This medicine is given as an injection into the eye called an intravitreal injection. The injection is given in the eye clinic by a doctor.

You will first be given a medicine to numb the eye. The surface of your eye will be cleaned to prevent infection.

The doctor will then inject the medication through the white part of your eye. A very fine needle is used for this injection.

In many cases this medicine needs to be given again. This is because the medicine is cleared out of the eye after around 4 weeks.



Possible side effects

This medication can cause side effects. Not every patient will get them and you might have no side effects at all. Side effects can include:

- Redness of the eye. This can sometimes take a week or two to clear after the injection
- Sore and gritty eye. Eye lubricants can help the eye to feel more comfortable if this occurs
- Moving black spots (floaters) in the eye

Infection inside the eye (Endophthalmitis)

This is very rare and the most serious side effect. The symptoms are:

- severe eye pain that doesn't go away,
- a large drop in vision,
- a very red eye

Go to the Sydney Eye Hospital Emergency Department or your local Emergency Department as soon as possible if you get any of these symptoms or are worried.

Other very rare side effects:

- bleeding inside the back of the eye
- cataract (clouding of the eye's clear lens)
- retinal detachment
- raised blood pressure and stroke or heart attack

Storage conditions and other important information

Bevacizumab is not licensed for use as an eye injection. It has been used by ophthalmologists for many years with good results. If you would like more information about such unlicensed use your doctor will be happy to discuss this further.

You need a prescription from your eye doctor for this medicine. You will need to pay the regular PBS price.

This medication is stored in the refrigerator. Once you have collected the medication from pharmacy, take it back to the clinic and give to a nurse.

After your injection avoid swimming. Try and avoid getting water into your eye for 7 days, though you can continue to have a shower.

For more information

Ask the nurse or doctor in the clinic if you need more information.

You can also contact the Pharmacy Department, Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, on **(02) 93827379**.

