

Intravitreal Injections

An intravitreal injection is a method of delivery of medication into the eye using a small needle that is inserted into the eye's vitreous jelly.

Before the injection, the eye is disinfected; it is also numbed to ensure that it is comfortable during the injection. However, it is possible that there may be a sensation of pressure during the procedure. Most patients describe the procedure as causing only minor discomfort.

Do not rub your eye or swim for one day after the injection.

If you have discomfort or headache after the injection, you may take over-the-counter medication that you would normally take in such situations, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), or naproxen (Aleve).

The most commonly reported side effects of the injection are eye

irritation or discomfort, increased tearing (which can be relieved with artificial tears), an increase in or onset of "floaters" (black dots floating through the vision), and a subconjunctival hemorrhage ("bloodshot" or red spot on the eye). The black spots should go away in two days; however, if there is any redness in the eye, it can last up to one to two weeks.

There should not be any severe pain or loss of vision. If these occur within the first 24 hours after the injection, or if floaters become worse or more numerous, call the office, immediately, day or night.

In summary, immediate attention should be sought for the onset of the following symptoms:

- Worsening eye pain or increased discomfort
- Worsening eye redness
- Blurred or decreased vision
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Increased number of floaters

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