

The Eye Unit

Ozurdex: Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant

Introduction

The doctor has recommended that you should have Ozurdex. Ozurdex is indicated in conditions such as retinal vein occlusion and in diabetes. This booklet aims to explain the treatment and what you will need to know for the day of the injection.

What is Ozurdex?

Ozurdex is made up of an anti-inflammatory steroid medication called dexamethasone, contained within a long acting implant and a specially designed applicator. The implant is injected directly into the eye. The medication is released slowly inside the eye for up to six months. It is used to either improve, or prevent the worsening of your eye sight.

This can be repeated every six months for up to three years. About 4 in 5 patients will need repetition of Ozurdex.

Admission to hospital

You will be admitted and discharged on the same day.

- After your injection you may see floaters or spots in your vision and your vision may be blurred. You should not drive or operate any machinery until these symptoms have resolved, which is usually within a few days.
- You will have to use eye drops before and following the injection.
- You will have a follow-up appointment within the next month. All subsequent appointments will be arranged from then on.
- Further details are included in the: **“Going Home after an Injection of Ozurdex (Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant)”** booklet. You will be given a copy of this before you are discharged home, after the injection.

Frequently asked questions

What are the benefits of Ozurdex?

- Vision is more likely to be better with Ozurdex treatment than doing nothing.
- 1 in 4 patients may gain 3 or more lines of extra vision when measured on a vision chart.

Are there any complications following the Ozurdex implant?

- Conjunctival haemorrhage on the white of the eye is very common, in more than 1 in



Patient Information

2 patients. This is not serious, does not affect the vision, and goes in 1-2 weeks.

- 1 in 6 patients may experience raised pressure in the eye. This is usually controlled with eye drops. Less than 1 in 100 patients need surgery to reduce the eye pressure. You will be seen almost monthly to check the eye pressure and the response to treatment.
- 1 in 100 patients may develop a cataract.
- 1 in 1000 patients may experience a retinal tear.
- 1 in 2000 patients may develop a retinal detachment
- 1 in 2000 patients may develop a severe and sight-threatening eye infection requiring hospital admission (endophthalmitis).

What are the immediate side effects I can expect after Ozurdex Implant?

- Eye discomfort or mild pain, improving after the first 24 hours.
- Redness of the eye
- You may see the implant as a floating rod
- Flashes of light
- Headache

Please contact the hospital if you have any of the following symptoms

- A lot of pain
- Loss of vision
- You become very sensitive to light

Further information

If you have any more questions or require further information please use the contact details below.

Eye Casualty Department, Clinic 9, University Hospital Coventry

Tel: 024 7696 6627

Monday –Thursday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Friday	8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday	8.30am - 12.00 noon

Outside of these times, please attend the hospital's main Accident and Emergency Department.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 6494 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

Author	Rosie Johnson, Sergio Pagliarini & Nonavinakere Manjunatha
Department	Ophthalmology
Published	January 2012
Reviewed	January 2019
Review	30/04/2022
Version	5.1
Reference	HIC/LFT/1390/12