

Patient Information

Eye Unit; Retinal services

BEOVU (Brolucizumab) Intravitreal Injection

Beovu is in a group of drugs known as Anti-VEGF treatments. It is injected directly into the eye to treat the abnormal blood vessels that grow under the macula which can cause water logging and bleeding. Unlike some Anti-VEGF drugs Beovu is used only to treat Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (Wet AMD)

How does it work?

In Wet Age related macular degeneration our bodies produce a substance called vascular endothelial growth factor A (known as VEGF-A) which results in the formation of abnormal blood vessels which grow underneath the macula. These blood vessels can leak fluid and blood, reducing our vision. Beovu blocks the effect of the VEGF-A, this may slow the disease, maintaining and even improving your vision.

How is it given?

Beovu, like other Anti-VEGF drugs is given as an injection into your eye by a doctor or trained Intravitreal nurse injector. It is given whilst you are awake, the eye will be made temporarily numb using eye drops. You will go to the Eye department for the injection and you can go home straight after having the procedure.

You will be given one injection of Beovu every month for the first 3 months. After this your doctor will decide, based on your scans and vision, when to give the next injection. This may be every two or three months.

Wet AMD is a chronic, long term disease lasting many years. Your doctor will be able to give you more information on this.



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Complications

As with any treatment there are risks involved. When you sign the form consenting to treatment the doctor will explain the risks to you and give you time to ask questions.

Beovu carries a risk of inflammation of the eye (Intraocular Inflammation or Uveitis). As we are aware this can happen your eye will be examined regularly to check for signs of inflammation.

There is also an increased risk of blockage of the blood vessels in the back of the eye (retinal vascular occlusion) and inflammation of blood vessels (retinal vasculitis).

Rarely, inflammation or blockage of retinal blood vessels may cause loss of vision. Overall, by controlling the wet- AMD more effectively with fewer injections than other anti-VEGF drugs, the benefits on vision outweigh the risks.

Red Flags for intraocular inflammation or described in this leaflet and need to be reported to the eye department.

Anti- VEGF drugs can increase the risk of blood clots that can lead to heart attack or stroke **but only when given in large amount in a vein.**

Extensive research has shown that anti-VEGF injected into the eye is safe as they do not leak out of the eye or they do so in very small amount to cause health issues outside the eye.

As with other Anti-VEGF drugs risks include;

Damage to front of the eye (Corneal abrasion)

Severe eye infection inside the eye (Endophthalmitis)

Retinal detachment

What will happen when you attend for the injection?

- Your pupil will be dilated.
- Your eye will be cleaned with an anti-bacterial solution to prevent infection. If you are allergic to iodine you need to inform the doctor.
- Numbing drops will be put into your eye.

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- A small funnel like device (Invitria) which keeps the eye open and has a small opening which is a guide for the injection will be inserted.
- The medication is injected into the vitreous (a jelly-like substance in the back chamber of the eye).
- Your eye will then be rinsed with a salt water solution, plus some antibiotic drops before you go home.
- You will be given some comfort drops to use on your first visit. After this your GP will supply these. We will tell them which eye drops to prescribe.

What to expect after the procedure?

- You may see the odd spot or floater. This may be due to air bubbles forming when injecting the drug. Air bubbles typically show as a dark spot towards your feet when standing up. They should go away after 1-2 days.
- Your vision may be blurred for a few days.
- Your eye may be fairly uncomfortable in the first 24 hours. This is usually due to irritation caused by the strong disinfectant used during the procedure and will get better.

Important: Report symptoms of eye inflammation

- Whilst receiving treatment with Beovu, it is important to recognise symptoms of eye inflammation and treat them promptly.
- Past the discomfort, blurred vision or odd floaters in the first day or two after an injection, you need to check that you are not developing symptoms of eye inflammation. These are listed in the questionnaire below. You need to contact the eye department if you answer “yes” to any of the questions.

Questions about eye inflammation

Since your last injection (thinking about the eye injected)

- Has your vision become more blurred in that eye?
- Have you had new black dots floating across your vision?
- Have you had new **pain**?

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- Have you had new **sensitivity** to bright light?
- Have you seen new **redness** of the white of that eye?
- Have you had a new patch of vision missing in that eye?

Please, contact the eye department if you answer “YES” to any of the questions above. You may need to be seen in clinic before your next planned appointment.

Whom do I contact if I need help after treatment?

Please ring the following numbers between 08:30am – 4.00pm.

- Rugby St Cross Vicky Lacey, 01788 66338
- Rugby St Cross, Chelsea (for Mr Manjunatha) 01788 663992

If you are in severe pain you should contact the Eye Casualty service as this may be an emergency.

Eye Casualty 024 7696 4800

Out of hours, there is only a limited service available via the Accident and Emergency Department. Hospital Switchboard 024 7696 4000.

Other useful contacts

Retinal Specialist Nurse, Sister Mann (Jas) 024 7696 4000 (switchboard) and ask them to bleep 2828 and stay on the phone until you are connected

- Mr Manjunatha/Mr Pagliarini secretary 024 7696 6496

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 7674 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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