



Steroid injections and the eye

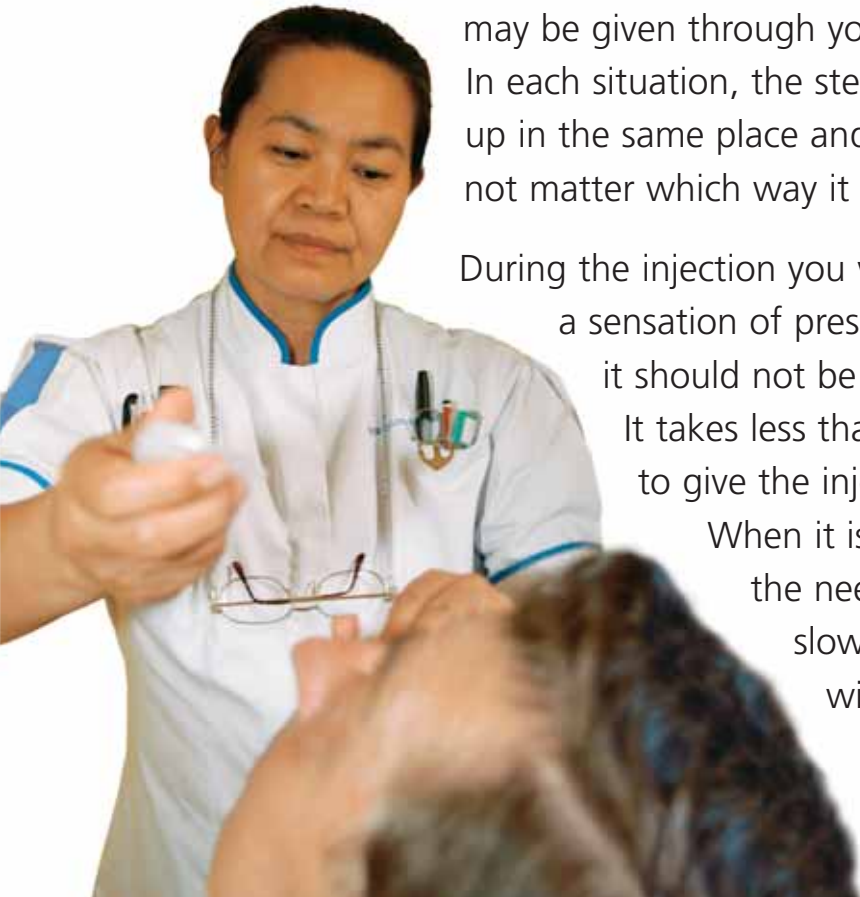
1. Steroid injections around the eye (peri-ocular steroid)

You have an inflamed eye that your ophthalmologist thinks could be helped by this type of treatment and this information sheet is to help you understand what is involved. This treatment should result in the reduction of the inflammation.

The injection is given around the eye not into the eye. To numb the eye, local anaesthetic drops are given and this may also be given as a small injection (like you may have had at the dentist). The steroid injection can be given in several places around the eye and may be given through your eyelid. In each situation, the steroid ends up in the same place and it does not matter which way it is given.

During the injection you will feel a sensation of pressure but it should not be painful. It takes less than a minute to give the injection.

When it is finished the needle is slowly withdrawn.



Afterwards the eye may feel slightly bruised and indeed a bruise may appear on the skin or on the white of the eye. This is not a serious problem and is due to blood vessels in the skin or lining of the outside of the eye being caught by the needle. This will change colour like any other bruise and then go away over a couple of weeks.

Should the eye become very painful at the time of the injection you should tell the doctor immediately. If your eye becomes very red and/or painful in the days and weeks following the injection you should come to the Accident & Emergency Department. There is a very small risk of a droopy eyelid (ptosis) after the injection.

You should have an Outpatient Appointment to be seen 1– 6 weeks after the injection as determined by the doctor.

2. Steroid injections into the eye (intraocular steroid)

You have water logging at the back of your eye (oedema) that your ophthalmologist thinks could be helped by this type of treatment and this information sheet is to help you understand what is involved. This treatment should reduce swelling at the back of the eye and therefore improve vision.

This injection is given into the eye itself. To numb the eye, local anaesthetic drops are given as well as a small injection (like you may have had at the dentist). The steroid injection

can be given in several places around the eye and wherever given the steroid ends up in the same place and it does not matter which way it is given.

During the injection you will feel a sensation of pressure but it should not be painful. It takes less than a minute to give the injection. When it is finished the needle is slowly withdrawn. Afterwards the eye may feel slightly bruised and indeed a bruise may appear on the white of the eye. This is not a serious problem and is due to blood vessels in lining of the outside of the eye being caught by the needle. This will change colour like any other bruise and then go away over a couple of weeks.

Should the eye become very painful at the time of the injection or the vision suddenly “blank out” you should tell the doctor immediately. If your eye becomes very red and/or painful in the days and weeks following the injection you should come to the Accident & Emergency Department.

You should have an Outpatient Appointment to be seen 1– 6 weeks after the injection as determined by the doctor.



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