

Patient information - medical retina services

Ozurdex® - for patients with macular oedema due to branch retinal vein occlusion or central retinal vein occlusion

Introduction

Ozurdex® has been approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to treat patients with macular oedema (swelling of the back part of the eye) due to branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO) or central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO). BRVO and CRVO are medical conditions that occur when one of your retinal veins is blocked. The retina is the light sensitive tissue that lines the back of your eye and is responsible for your eyesight.


BRVO or CRVO usually occur when a retinal vein is either:

- “Pinched off” through the pressure of an artery lying on top of the vein; or

- Clogged with a blood clot or atherosclerotic plaque (fatty deposit in the wall of the artery); or
- Blocked due to an inflammatory condition

Macular oedema, a swelling and thickening of the macula, is a secondary condition to the retinal vein occlusion, i.e. the oedema is caused by the vein occlusion. The macula is a small area in the centre of your retina that contains a rich collection of nerve cells sensitive to light, fine detail, and colour.

The blocked vein increases the blood pressure in the smaller vessels and causes them to bleed and leak fluid into your retina, which forms a macular oedema or swelling of the retina, as well



as causing loss of blood flow and inflammation. All these processes lead to painless decrease/loss of vision in the affected eye.

About Ozurdex®

Ozurdex® is a small biodegradable implant which is administered via a special applicator with a needle. It is applied as an ophthalmic intravitreal injection. This means that it is injected into your eye. Sufficient local anaesthetic is administered prior to the Ozurdex® injection to ensure that you do not feel pain during the injection. The local anaesthetic is given in the form of drops or subconjunctival anaesthetic injection (under the outer covering layer on top of the white of your eye). This local anaesthetic injection is essentially painless.

Ozurdex® contains dexamethasone, which is slowly released into your eye as the implant dissolves (biodegrades). Dexamethasone belongs to a group of drugs called potent corticosteroids, and has been shown to reduce inflammation, oedema, and thickening of the retina, thus improving vision.

Your eye doctor has suggested Ozurdex® treatment for you because you suffer from BRVO or CRVO and there is an approximately 30% chance of your vision improving with this treatment.

If you decide to undergo treatment, both you and your eye doctor will need to sign and date the informed consent form. You will receive a copy to take home with you.

Risks associated with Ozurdex®

In the days following injection with Ozurdex®, you may be at risk for potential complications including the development of serious eye infection or increased eye pressure. If your eye becomes red, sensitive to light, painful, or develops a change in vision, you should seek immediate care. Please telephone Moorfields Eye Hospital Direct for advice on 020 7566 2345 or attend your local A&E department or the Moorfields 24/7 A&E department which is open for emergency eye problems only for a further examination.

You may experience temporary visual blurring after receiving an injection and should not drive or use machinery until your vision has resolved.

All drugs can cause side effects in some people. Please read the section below in order to be aware of the most commonly reported side effects.

Adverse events associated with the use of Ozurdex®:

Very common side effects—might affect more than one patient in 10:

- Increased pressure in the eye, bleeding on the surface of the eye

Common side effects—might affect one to 10 patients in 100:

- High pressure in the eye
- Detachment of the jelly inside the eye (vitreous detachment)
- Clouding of the eye lens (cataract)
- Bleeding inside the eye
- Difficulties in seeing clearly
- A feeling of spots in front of the eye (including ‘floaters’)
- Eye pain
- Seeing flashes of light, swelling or scratching on the surface of the eye
- A feeling of looking through mist or fog
- Redness of the eye

Uncommon side effects—might affect one to 10 patients in 1,000:

- Retinal tear
- Inflammation
- Headache
- Decrease in eye pressure

Some of these side effects may be caused by the injection procedure and not the Ozurdex® implant itself—for example,

bleeding on the surface of the eye, difficulties in seeing clearly, a feeling of spots in front of the eye (including ‘floaters’), eye pain, seeing flashes of light, swelling or scratching on the surface of the eye, a feeling of looking through mist or fog, redness of the eye, decrease in eye pressure.

Aftercare

You can resume normal activities once you have been discharged from hospital. Please use the post-procedure antibiotic drops as advised. If you experience eye pain or loss of vision, please come immediately to the Accident and Emergency Department at Moorfields Eye Hospital in City Road, which is open 24 hours a day for eye emergencies only.

For further advice, please call Moorfields Direct Advice Line on 020 7566 2345.

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Moorfields Direct advice line

Phone: 020 7566 2345

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm,
for information and advice on eye
conditions and treatments from
experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324 or 020 7566 2325

Email: pals@moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields' PALS team provides
confidential advice and support to help
you sort out any concerns you may have
about the care we provide, guiding you
through the different services available at
Moorfields. The PALS team can also
advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients
have the right to start their consultant-led
treatment within 18 weeks of being
referred by their GP. Moorfields is
committed to fulfilling this right, but if you
feel that we have failed to do so, please
contact our patient advice and liaison
service (PALS) who will be able to advise
you further – see above for contact
details. For more information about your
rights under the NHS constitution, please
visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs.