

Patient information leaflet

Intravitreal Ozurdex implant

What kind of treatment is to be administered?

We have recommended the administration of the active substance dexamethasone in the form of an Ozurdex implant into the vitreous cavity (intravitreal). The aim of the treatment is to reduce damage that has already occurred as well as the problems you have described.

Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid preparation that inhibits inflammatory reactions, increased vascular permeability, and scar formation. It is used for diseases in various parts of the body, including the eyes. In order to reduce the frequency of intraocular treatments, a small rod-shaped implant (0.46 x 6 mm) containing 700 µg of dexamethasone was developed, which releases this evenly for up to 6 months.

What does the treatment involve?

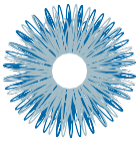
First, the conjunctiva of your eye is anaesthetised with drops and cleaned several times. The implant is then injected into the eye (intravitreal implant). You should not feel anything during the procedure. During the implantation procedure, you will hear a click.

Immediately after implantation, the intraocular pressure and position of the implant are checked. We give you antibiotic eye drops (Floxal eye drops) to apply to the affected eye to minimise the risk of infection during treatment. The eye drops are to be applied as follows: 1 drop 3x a day for 3 days prior to and after implantation.

What are the possible complications?

No procedure is completely free of risk. There is no guarantee that the treatment will be successful. After a while, any positive effect from the drug may wear off and require the treatment to be repeated. The observed side effects of intravitreal implantation of Ozurdex generally remained confined to the eye.

Depending on the position of the implant, which moves freely inside the eye, you may occasionally perceive it as a 'small line'.



Despite taking the greatest care, the following complications could occur:

- **Increase in intraocular pressure:** increases in intraocular pressure occasionally occur after implantation of Ozurdex, especially in people who have already reacted to the administration of cortisone eye drops with an increase in intraocular pressure. These increases in pressure require appropriate treatment.
- **Pain/conjunctival haemorrhage/conjunctival irritation:** you may feel a slight sensation of pressure after the injection (despite local anaesthetic). A conjunctival haemorrhage (which will disappear on its own) is possible due to injury to superficial vessels, as is temporary swelling/reddening of the conjunctiva.
- **Disturbed vision/vitreous opacity (incl. 'mouche volantes' commonly called 'floaters'):** these symptoms usually disappear within a few days.
- **Accelerated development of cataracts:** accelerated clouding of the lens due to cortisone medication is possible, but can be corrected by cataract surgery.
- **Infection of the eye interior (endophthalmitis):** like any injection into the vitreous, Ozurdex implantation can also lead to infection by introducing germs into the interior of the eye. This is extremely rare, but requires emergency treatment.
- **Other very rare complications such as injury to the lens of the eye, retinal detachment or vitreous haemorrhage:** these can occur as with any injection into the vitreous and may require surgical treatment.

Important points to note

After the injection, you should not rub the eye that has been treated, as this could cause superficial injuries that may cause severe pain when the local anaesthetic wears off.

You should be prepared for the fact that you will not be allowed to drive or travel alone on public transport on the day of the implantation. Therefore, it is important that you arrange for someone to escort you home. In addition, you should not carry out any dangerous work, e.g. work without a secure footing, or operate industrial machinery. Avoid bathing and diving during the first week after the implantation.