

By [David Turbert](#)

Reviewed By [Ninel Z Gregori MD](#)

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Avastin is a drug used to treat wet [age-related macular degeneration \(AMD\)](#), diabetic eye disease and other problems of the [retina](#). It is injected into the eye to prevent vision loss from these diseases.

Avastin is the brand name for the drug, which is called bevacizumab. It blocks the growth of fluid from abnormal blood vessels in the back of the eye. Those blood vessels can leak fluid, causing vision loss from wet AMD and diabetic eye disease.

Avastin was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat cancer. Its use to treat eye disease is considered an “off-label” use. The FDA allows off-label use if doctors are well informed about the product and studies prove the drug is safe and effective. Clinical trials have shown Avastin as safe and effective for eye disease since it was first used for cancer.

Lucentis® (ranibizumab) and Eylea® (aflibercept) are other drugs like Avastin. Clinical trials of these drugs are effective in slowing vision loss.

How does Avastin work?

Abnormal blood vessels need a body chemical called VEGF to grow. Avastin blocks the growth of blood vessels in the eye. Drugs that block the trouble-causing VEGF are called VEGF drugs.

What conditions are treated with Avastin?

Avastin is used to treat the following eye problems:

- wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- [swelling of the retina, called macular edema](#)
- [diabetic retinopathy](#)
- retinal vein occlusion

What happens during Avastin treatment?

During an outpatient procedure, your ophthalmologist first numbs the eye. Then, your doctor injects the Avastin directly into your eye.

Before the procedure, your ophthalmologist will clean your eye to prevent infection. Your eye will be numbed with medicine. A very thin needle is passed through the white part of the eye to inject the Avastin. Usually you do not see the needle itself. You may need to continue treatment over many months.

Sometimes ophthalmologists will combine Avastin treatment with other treatments to increase the chance of saving your vision.

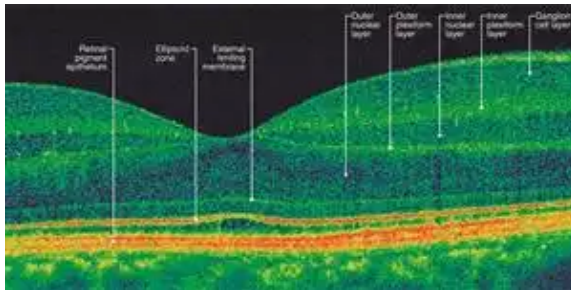
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