

Anti-VEGF Treatments

[Anti-VEGF Treatments](#)

[What Is Avastin?](#)

[What Is Lucentis?](#)

[What Is Eylea?](#)



What Is Eylea?

Leer en Español: [¿Qué es Eylea?](#)

By [David Turbert](#)

Reviewed By [Ninel Z Gregori MD](#)

Apr. 23, 2021

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

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

Avastin (bevacizumab) is another drug like Eylea. Avastin was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat different types of cancer. Its use to treat eye disease is considered an "off-label" use. The FDA allows "off label" drug use if doctors are well informed about the product and studies prove the drug is helpful. Many studies have shown Avastin as safe and effective for eye disease since it was first used in 2005.

Research shows that Eylea and Avastin are both effective in slowing vision loss.

How does Eylea work?

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

What conditions are treated with Eylea?

Eylea 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 Eylea treatment?

During an outpatient procedure, your ophthalmologist first numbs the eye to block pain. Then your doctor injects the Eylea directly into your eye.

Before the procedure, your ophthalmologist will clean your eye to prevent infection and numb your eye with medicine. A very thin needle is passed through the white part of your eye and the drug is injected. Usually you do not see the needle itself. You may need to continue having these injections over many months.

What are the risks of Eylea treatment?

Every treatment can have side effects. It is important to understand the benefits and risks of any treatment you might have.

Common side effects include:

- [eye redness](#)
- feeling like something is in your eye
- [dry or itchy eyes](#)
- eye discomfort
- [temporarily blurry vision](#)
- [floaters](#)

Any eye injection, including Eylea, may cause these problems, which are very rare:

- [being extra sensitive to light](#)
- [eye pain](#)
- swelling inside the eye
- eye infection
- [detached retina](#) (where the retina lifts up from the back of the eye)
- [cataracts](#) (clouding of the eye's normally clear lens)

If you have any questions about your eyes or your vision, be sure to ask. Your ophthalmologist is committed to protecting your sight.

What Is Lucentis?

Related



[Improved Dry Eye Drugs for 2022 and Beyond](#)
NOV 04, 2021



[Visual Hallucinations Surprisingly Common in Age-Related Macular Degeneration](#)
NOV 04, 2021



[Genetics and Age-Related Macular Degeneration](#)
NOV 03, 2021



[Surprising Facts About Age-Related Macular Degeneration](#)
NOV 03, 2021



Find an Ophthalmologist

[Advanced Search](#)

Ask an Ophthalmologist



[Browse Answers](#)

Free Newsletter

Get ophthalmologist-reviewed tips and information about eye health and preserving your vision.

Sign up

[Privacy Policy](#)

Interested in a no-cost eye exam from the Academy's EyeCare America® program?



[Learn More](#)

OUR SITES

[EyeWiki](#)

[International Society of Refractive Surgery](#)

FOLLOW THE ACADEMY

Medical Professionals



Public & Patients



[Contact Us](#)

[About the Academy](#)

[Jobs at the Academy](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Help](#) [For Advertisers](#)

[For Media](#)

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



© American Academy of Ophthalmology 2021

ALSO OF INTEREST

[Avastin](#)

[Lucentis](#)

[Comparison of Anti-VEGF Treatments for Wet AMD](#)