Eylea®

What is Eylea®?

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 of 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.

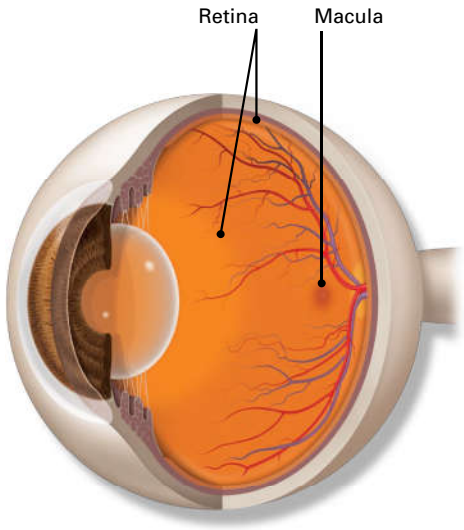
How does Eylea work?

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



Eye Words to Know

Retina: Layer of nerve cells lining the back wall inside the eye. This layer senses light and sends signals to the brain so you can see.

Macula: Small but important area in the center of the retina. You need the macula to clearly see details of objects in front of you.

What happens during Eylea treatment?

During an outpatient procedure, your ophthalmologist 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.

At times ophthalmologists will combine Eylea treatment with other treatments for the best chance of saving your vision.

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.

Eylea may cause these problems:

- eye infection (this happens in fewer than 1 out of 1,000 injections)
- detached retina (where the retina lifts up from the back of the eye)
- cataracts (clouding of the eye's normally clear lens)

Other side effects may include:

- Eye redness
- Being extra sensitive to light
- Eye pain
- Changes in vision, including blurriness, floaters and seeing double images
- Dry or itchy eyes
- Feeling like something is in your eye

Call your ophthalmologist right away if you have any of these problems within a few days of Eylea treatment.

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

Summary

Eylea is a drug that is injected into your eye to treat wet AMD, diabetic eye disease, and retinal vein occlusion. This drug type is called "anti-VEGF." That is because it blocks a chemical called VEGF. VEGF causes abnormal blood vessels to grow in the eye, affecting vision.

Your ophthalmologist will numb your eye with medicine. Then they will inject Eylea into your eye using a very thin needle.

You may need multiple Eylea treatments to help slow vision loss. Your ophthalmologist might also combine Eylea treatment and another type of treatment.

Like any treatment, there are possible risks and side effects from Eylea treatment. They might include problems with the retina, eye infection, vision problems and more. Talk with your ophthalmologist if you have any questions.

Get more information about eye health from EyeSmart—provided by the American Academy of Ophthalmology—at **aao.org/eyesmart**.

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Content last reviewed 03/19