



Patient information: medical retina services

Use of iodine before eye injections

Before your injection treatment (intravitreal injection) is given, we clean the eyelids and surrounding area of your eye with an antiseptic agent called povidone-iodine (PVP-I). Iodine is also used for patients undergoing any type of eye surgery or procedure (see figure 1 below). This leaflet aims to answer some of the questions patients frequently ask us about our use of iodine, however, if there is anything else you would still like clarified, please ask your eye doctor or nurse practitioner.

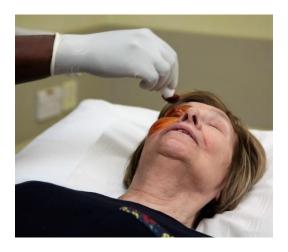


Figure 1

Why is iodine used before my eye injection?

Using iodine before an intravitreal injection procedure means there is a minimised risk of infection (one in 3,000 cases at Moorfields Eye Hospital).

If I experience sensitivity to iodine does that mean I may be allergic?

All antiseptic agents/drops are known to cause mild to moderate irritation or some redness but that does not mean that you are allergic to them. Very rarely, patients are truly allergic to povidone—iodine. If you have any known allergy to povidone—iodine please tell your eye doctor when you attend the injection clinic appointment.

Why would I experience sensitivity to iodine?

lodine is in the same group as chlorine (used as an antiseptic in swimming pools) and so it is likely that you will have a similar reaction to the eye irritation you may get from extended swimming.

Is there any preparation I can do to reduce iodine sensitivity?

It is common to have sensitivity to iodine and we make every effort to reduce possible irritation by thoroughly washing out the iodine. However, we advise you use ocular lubricants before coming for your injections to reduce this sensitivity. Ocular lubricants are provided by us as part of your post-operative discharge care.

Can an alternative antiseptic agent be used?

For patients allergic or sensitive to povidone—iodine we can use another antiseptic agent like chlorhexidine gluconate. Chlorhexidine is a good alternative antiseptic agent; however it is not as effective as povidone—iodine. This evidence is supported by clinical studies and recent Moorfields post-injection endophthalmitis data, which showed that there is a 10 times greater chance of risk of infection when using chlorhexidine.

Therefore, to prevent the risk of serious infection, our advice and policy is to use povidone-iodine as an antiseptic agent rather than chlorhexidine.

Authors: Adam Mapani, nurse consultant, medical retina, Mr Robin Hamilton, service director and Mr Yasir Khan, locum consultant.

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Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust City Road, London EC1V 2PD

Phone: 020 7253 3411 www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
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

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Email: pals@moorfields.nhs.net
Moorfields' PALS team provides
confidential advice and support to help
you with 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 begin 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.

