

## Anti-VEGF Injection Information Improving and maintaining your vision.

---

### ■ Why do we use Anti-VEGF drugs (Avastin, Lucentis, Eylea)?

VEGF is an enzyme that is present in the body even under normal circumstances. It has been found to be elevated in numerous pathological conditions of the body. When elevated in the eye, it is partially responsible for damage in conditions such as Diabetic Retinopathy, Macular Degeneration, and Retinal Vascular Occlusion. Anti-VEGF agents counteract the harmful effects of VEGF.

These conditions tend to be chronic in nature, and as such, frequent follow-up is commonly required for at least a year. It is not uncommon for follow-up exams to continue indefinitely. Some of these conditions require an initial series of injections on a monthly basis, followed either by treatment in decreasing frequency, or careful follow-up with reinstitution of treatment as needed.

Please understand, treatment of these disorders is not quick and easy, and we don't have a cure. However, injections have proven to be very effective in maintaining or improving vision. Vision does not always improve, but we can usually maintain it at its current level. Research continues, and our physicians will offer additional or alternate therapies as they become available.

### ■ How is the procedure performed?

The medicine is injected into the eye in our offices. It does not require any special pretreatment care. We first deaden the eye with anesthetic drops, or a small injection of lidocaine. Next, we clean the eye in the same manner as would be performed in an operating room. And last, we inject a tiny droplet of the medication into the eye with a very thin needle.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE