

Ophthalmology department

MINject glaucoma drainage device

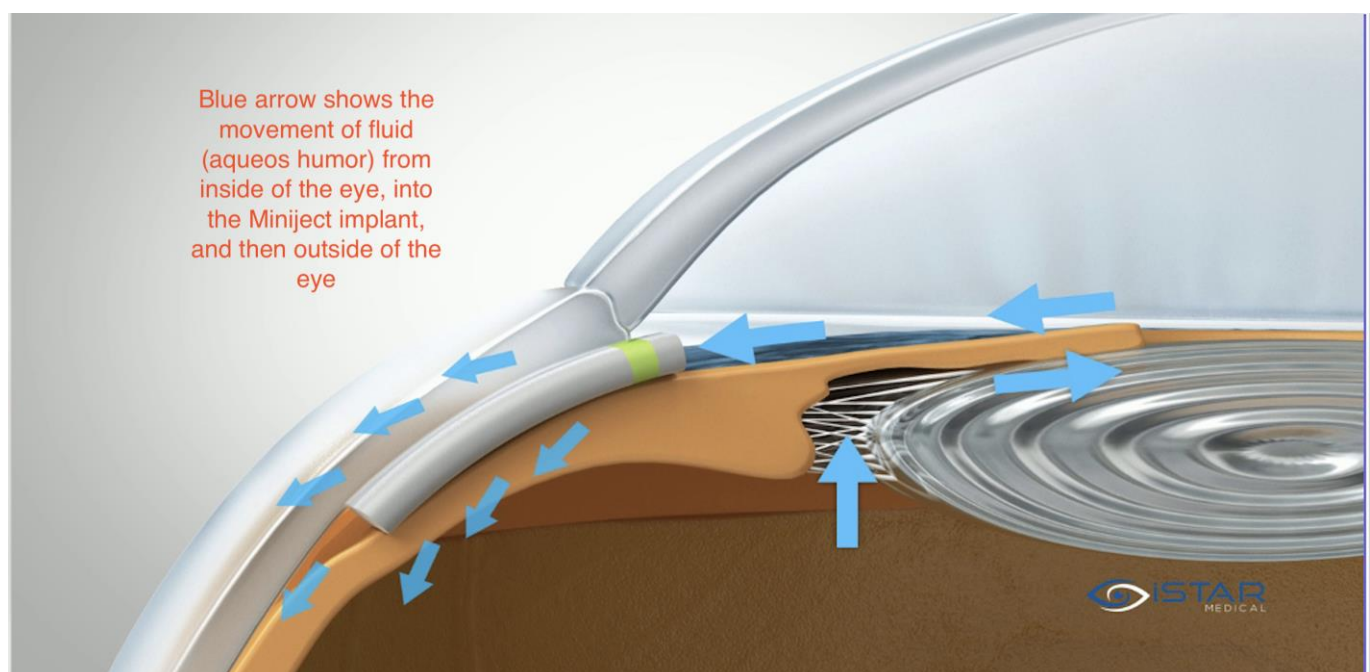
Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to give you information about the MINject glaucoma device and answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have. It is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us

What is the MINject?

The MINject is a form of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery also known as MIGS. It is a soft and flexible porous device which will help drain fluid from the front compartment of the eye (anterior chamber) into a natural outflow pathway (supra-choroidal space). It is very small device that is 5mm in length and is made from medical grade silicone. By increasing the natural outflow of aqueous from the eye it reduces the intraocular pressure, which is important in stabilising glaucoma and helping to prevent sight loss. Find out more about [MINject](#)



Who is the MINject for?

The MINject is primarily for adult patients with open angle glaucoma.

What are the potential benefits?

- The MINject is designed to reduce the intraocular pressure in the eye thus reducing the need for glaucoma drops or more invasive glaucoma surgery.
- The MINject will not cure your glaucoma and will not reverse any damage that has already occurred.
- The MINject is not visible from the outside of the eye and is not felt inside the eye.

What are the potential complications?

Although the MINject has been approved for use after rigorous clinical trials and regulatory processes, it is a new procedure so there is still a lot to learn about it and some of the safety issues may not be known.

As with all surgical procedures there is a risk of infection and inflammation after surgery so you will be prescribed antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drops. The eye may be red for some days after the surgery and there is a small risk of bleeding.

Sometimes the MINject may not lower the pressure enough or as expected and there may be a need for further glaucoma surgery. As with any eye surgery, there is a very small risk of reduced vision but this has to be balanced against the benefits of going ahead with the procedure.

Are there any alternatives?

Alternatives include the standard glaucoma surgery, but this may carry more risk than the MINject procedure. There are other MIGS devices available dependent on specific clinical factors and your doctor will be able to discuss this further.

Preparing for the operation

You should continue using any eye drops and tablets for your glaucoma as prescribed until your operation, unless directed otherwise by your ophthalmologist. If you take any blood-thinning medicines (for example, warfarin) please discuss this with the doctor or nurse. Before the operation you will be asked to attend a preoperative assessment appointment to check that you are fit for the procedure and anaesthetic. Please bring an up-to-date list of your medications and a brief summary of your medical history with you to this appointment; if you are unsure of anything please check with your GP.

During the operation

The operation is usually performed with a local anaesthetic, which means that you will be awake, but your eye is numb so you will not feel any pain. You will be aware of what is happening in the operating theatre. The procedure itself only takes 5 to 10 minutes. It is often performed at the end of cataract surgery but can also be done separately. The device is implanted through a tiny incision made in the front of the eye.

After the operation

The MINject procedure requires patients to attend follow-up appointments at regular intervals as needed to ensure success of the procedure.

After the operation, your eye will be covered by a protective plastic shield. After the operation your glaucoma eye drops to your operated eye may be changed or stopped, but any drops you use in your other eye must be continued as normal.

You will be given different eye drops for your operated eye to use for approximately the next 4 weeks.

Useful contact telephone numbers

If you have questions before your appointment, please contact the pre-assessment nurse on **020 3312 9784/9730/9612** at Western Eye Hospital or **020 3311 0137** at Charing Cross Hospital between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

If your eye becomes red or painful, or have any other concerns, please contact:

- **Western Eye Hospital emergency department:** 020 3312 3245
- **Western Eye Hospital eye clinic:** 020 3312 3236
- **Alex Cross ward at the Western Eye Hospital:** 020 3312 3218
- **Day care unit at the Western Eye Hospital:** 020 3312 9614
- **Charing Cross Hospital eye clinic:** 020 3311 1109 or 020 3311 1233
- **Charing Cross Hospital – Riverside Daycare unit:** 020 3311 1460

If you have not received a post-surgery appointment, please contact **020 3312 3275 option 2** or email imperial.wehoutpatients@nhs.net

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on

020 3313 0088 (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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