

Ophthalmology

Endophthalmitis

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet will tell you about about endophthalmitis, which is a rare but serious eye condition. We hope it helps answer any questions you or your caregivers might have. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us. Use the details at the end of this leaflet.

What is endophthalmitis?

Endophthalmitis is a severe inflammation of the inside the eye, usually caused by an infection. It can happen after eye surgery or injections into the eye (such as for macular or diabetic eye problems). This condition is considered an emergency. This is because rapid diagnosis and treatment are important to help protect your vision.

Warning signs and symptoms

If you have recently had eye surgery or an injection into your eye and notice any of the following symptoms, get eye help immediately:

- increasing eye pain or discomfort
- blurred or reduced vision
- redness or swelling of the eye or eyelids
- sensitivity to light (photophobia)
- discharge or pus from your eye
- your eye looks white or cloudy inside

What should I do if I think I have endophthalmitis?

Contact the Western Eye Hospital emergency department immediately (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). You can find the phone number at the end of this leaflet.

If you cannot reach us, go to your nearest A&E as soon as possible. Getting treatment quickly is very important to help save your vision.

Why is endophthalmitis dangerous?

Without urgent treatment, the infection can spread quickly. It can cause severe and permanent vision loss. In rare cases, patients can lose their eye. We want to diagnose and treat endophthalmitis as soon as possible. This helps preserve vision and improve recovery.

Treatment for endophthalmitis

Treatment usually involves taking a sample of fluid from inside your eye to find the cause of the infection. Doctors usually give antibiotics directly into the eye through an injection, antibiotic or steroid eye drops. Sometimes they will give you tablets (oral medication). You might need to stay in hospital for close observation.

In few cases, you might need a special operation called vitrectomy. We do this operation to remove any infection from inside the eye.

How long does treatment take?

At first, we will review you every day. Then we will review you less frequently as your condition gets better.

You might need to use eye drops several times a day for several weeks. It can take some time to recover, and your eye team will monitor you closely.

Can I continue my usual eye injections or treatment?

If you normally get regular eye injections, you will need to pause them for a bit until the infection is fully cleared, and your eye has healed. Your doctor will tell you when it is safe to start treatment again.

What do I need to remember?

- endophthalmitis is rare but it can be very serious
- if you notice any pain, redness, or if your vision gets worse after an injection or surgery, you need to get medical help quickly
- early treatment gives you the best chance of preserving your eyesight
- keep this information leaflet and emergency contact details somewhere that is easy to find

Contact information

- emergency department at Western Eye Hospital: 020 3312 3245
- outpatients at Western Eye Hospital: 020 3312 3236
- Alex Cross ward day care unit: 020 3312 3218 / 9614
- outpatients at Charing Cross Hospital: 020 3311 1109 / 1233 / 0137

How do I give feedback?

We want to hear your **suggestions** or **comments**. Your feedback helps us provide the best service. You can always speak to a member of staff.

You can also contact the **patient advice and liaison service (PALS)** on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays) or email at imperial.pals@nhs.net. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or questions and they can help solve problems.

You can make a complaint by ringing **020 3312 1337 / 1349** or emailing tr.Complaints@nhs.net. The address is Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY.

Other ways to read this leaflet

Please email us at imperial.communications@nhs.net if you need this leaflet in a different format. This could be large print, Easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in a different language.

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