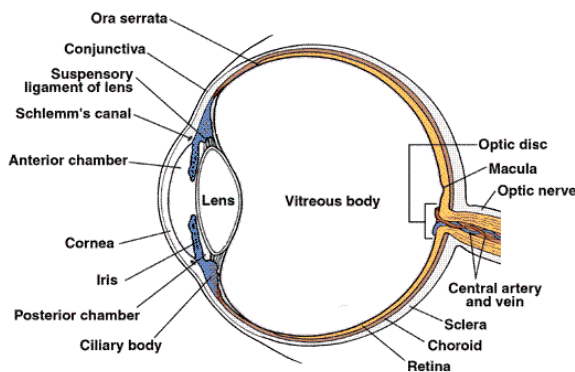


## Lucentis for macular degeneration - Patient information

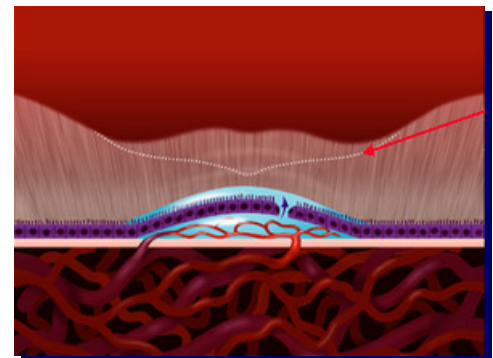
### What is macular degeneration?

Age related macular degeneration (AMD) is a common disease of old age. The eye is similar to a camera. It has a lens at the front and a film (the [retina](#)) at the back. At the center of the retina is the [macula](#). Light is focused onto the macula, which produces an image for the brain to see.

The commonest cause of visual loss is AMD. There is a wet type and a dry type. Typically the wet type causes rapid worsening degradation of vision, with distortion, and central blur. This is caused by blood vessels growing underneath the retina, leaking fluid and blood. A local hormone called VEGF causes the growth of new blood vessels. Over time a scar forms under the retina and vision is lost.



The Eye



Blood vessels under the  
macula

### **What is Lucentis?**

It is an antibody to VEGF and by switching off this hormone it closes the abnormal blood vessels, stopping leakage of fluid and blood under the retina.

### **Who benefits from Lucentis treatment?**

Most patients with active wet AMD will benefit. Other conditions, such as macular disease due to short sightedness may benefit.

### **Am I a suitable candidate for Lucentis treatment?**

If you have leaky blood vessels under the retina then you may benefit from Lucentis therapy. As with all treatments for AMD, time is of the essence and delay in time increases the risk of bleeding and scarring.

### **Is Lucentis a proven treatment for wet AMD?**

Yes, Lucentis has been proven to be a successful at treating wet AMD. In clinical trials of monthly Lucentis injections, 95% of patients had stable vision and 1/3 of patients gained vision.

### **How is the drug administered?**

The conjunctiva is numbed with anaesthetic, it is then cleaned and a speculum used to hold the eyelids open. A tiny amount of the drug is injected through the white of the eye. A course of injections will be needed. The retina will be examined and scanned regularly and treatments tailored to each individual patient needs.

There are risks involved with injecting into the eye. The most serious, is getting an infection in the eye, this generally occurs within 3-4 days of injection and causes redness, pain and blurred vision. If the eye does become painful following the injection you should seek medical advice as a matter of urgency so that antibiotic treatment can be arranged. There also appears to be a small increase risk of stroke at the higher dose of Lucentis.

### **Where can I find more information on Lucentis?**

You can get more information from logging to [lucentis.com](http://lucentis.com).

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been made to produce accurate information within this website, Mr. Newsom can make no warranty as to the accuracy or applicability of any information to individual patients and cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions in the information. Mr. Newsom cannot be liable to any person for any loss or damage that may arise from the use of the information contained in any of the materials on this website.