

[Eye Health A-Z](#)**Anti-VEGF Treatments****[Anti-VEGF Treatments](#)**[What Is Avastin?](#)[What Is Lucentis?](#)[What Is Eylea?](#)

## Anti-VEGF Treatments

Leer en Español: [Tratamientos Anti-VEGF](#)

By [David Turbert](#)

Reviewed By [G Atma Vemulakonda, MD](#)

Mar. 02, 2019

Your ophthalmologist may treat your wet AMD or other disease of the [retina](#) with a drug called anti-VEGF. Anti-VEGF treatment improves vision in about one third (1 out of 3) people who take it. For a vast majority (9 out of 10), it at least stabilizes vision.

### What is Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor?

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is a protein produced by cells in your body. VEGF produces new blood vessels when your body needs them.

### Why Do You Want to Stop VEGF From Working?

Sometimes cells can produce too much VEGF. When this happens, abnormal blood vessels can grow in your eye. These abnormal blood vessels damage your eye and harm your vision. This can lead to [low vision](#) or blindness.

### What Conditions Are Treated with Anti-VEGF Medicine?

Anti-VEGF medicine blocks VEGF, slowing the growth of blood vessels in the eye. This slows or stops damage from the abnormal blood vessels and slows down vision loss. Sometimes it can even improve vision.

Ophthalmologists use anti-VEGF medicines to treat the following eye problems:

- Wet [age-related macular degeneration \(AMD\)](#)
- Swelling of the retina, called [macular edema](#)
- [Diabetic retinopathy](#)
- [Retinal vein occlusion](#)

### What are the Differences Between the Kinds of Anti-VEGF Treatments?

There are three main anti-VEGF medicines:

- [Avastin](#)
- [Lucentis](#)
- [Eylea](#)

Ophthalmologists generally consider all three to be safe and effective treatments for retinal disease. [One study that compared the effectiveness of Lucentis and Avastin](#) found them both

effective for treating Wet AMD. The differences among Avastin, Lucentis and Eylea have to do with cost, packaging, and possibly with some packaging-associated risk. [On the other hand](#), new anti-VEGF drugs are nearing approval, and patients may have more treatment options in coming years.

By clicking "Accept All Cookies," you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. [View our privacy policy for more information.](#)

[Cookies Settings](#)

## How Anti-VEGF Treatment Is Given

This is what you can expect during the treatment:

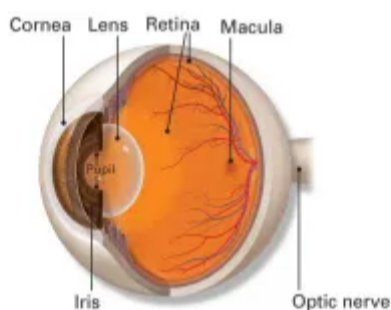
- Your ophthalmologist will clean your eye to prevent infection.
- The eye is numbed to reduce pain.
- A small device may be placed on your eye to keep your eyelids out of the way.
- Your ophthalmologist injects the drug through the white part of your eye using a very thin needle.
- The injection only takes a few seconds. You usually do not see the needle itself.

Your ophthalmologist will decide how many treatments you need. You may need other types of treatment along with anti-VEGF treatment.

Next

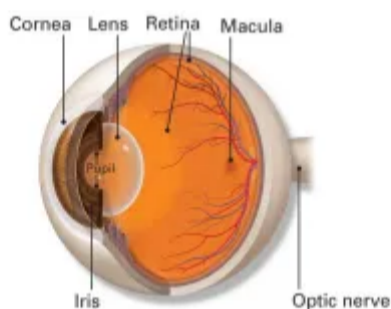
What Is Avastin?

### Related



#### [What Is a Torn Retina?](#)

DEC 05, 2022



#### [What Is Stargardt Disease?](#)

DEC 02, 2022



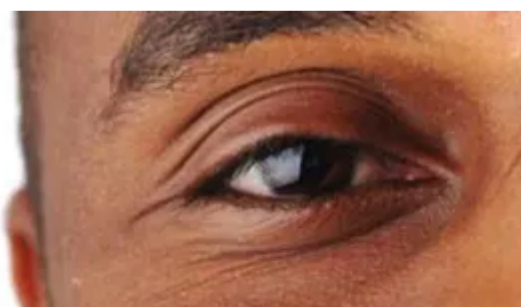
#### [What Is a Posterior Vitreous Detachment?](#)

NOV 22, 2022



#### [Nevus \(Eye Freckle\)](#)

NOV 17, 2022



#### [What Is Marfan Syndrome?](#)

NOV 10, 2022

By clicking "Accept All Cookies," you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. [Learn More](#)

**Find an Ophthalmologist**

Enter ZIP Code Search

[Advanced Search](#)

### Ask an Ophthalmologist

Search questions Q

[Browse Answers](#)

### Free Newsletter


Get ophthalmologist-reviewed tips and information about eye health and preserving your vision.

Email Address

Sign up

[Privacy Policy](#)

Interested in a no-cost eye exam from the Academy's EyeCare America® program?



[Learn More](#)

#### OUR SITES

[EyeWiki](#)

[International Society of Refractive Surgery](#)

#### FOLLOW THE ACADEMY

Medical Professionals



Public & Patients



Museum of the Eye



[Contact Us](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[About the Academy](#)

[Help](#) [For Advertisers](#)

[Jobs at the Academy](#)

[For Media](#)

[Financial Relationships with Industry](#)

[Ophthalmology Job Center](#)

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

© American Academy of Ophthalmology 2022

#### ALSO OF INTEREST

By clicking "Accept All Cookies," you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation, analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts. [Learn More](#)

[Avastin Comparison of Anti-VEGF Treatments for Wet AMD](#)

[New Treatments for Age-Related Macular Degeneration](#)