

Lucentis®

Ranibizumab (rbe)

10mg/mL solution for injection

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Lucentis.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the final page. More recent information on the medicine may be available.

You should ensure that you speak to your pharmacist or doctor to obtain the most up-to-date information on the medicine. You can also download the most up-to-date leaflet from www.medsafe.govt.nz

Those updates may contain important information about the medicine and its use of which you should be aware.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given Lucentis against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What Lucentis is used for

Lucentis is used to treat problems with your vision due to damage to the retina (light-sensitive layer at the back of the eye) caused by:

- growth of leaky, abnormal blood vessels in diseases such as wet

age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

- abnormal leakage of the blood vessels in the retina of diabetic patients, a disease called diabetic macular oedema (DME).
- the blockage of retinal veins, which causes bleeding and swelling in the retina, a disease called retinal vein occlusion (RVO).

Lucentis reduces both the growth and the leakage of new blood vessels in the retina, abnormal processes that contribute to the progression of AMD and the development of macular oedema (swelling) due to DME or RVO.

Lucentis contains the active substance ranibizumab, which is part of an antibody. Antibodies are proteins which specifically recognise and bind to other unique proteins in the body. Ranibizumab binds selectively to a protein called human vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A), which is present in the retina.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

It is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine for children or adolescents.

Before you are given Lucentis

When you must not be given it

You must not be given Lucentis if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing ranibizumab
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

You must not be given this medicine if you have or suspect you may have an infection in or around your eye or if you have any pain or redness in your eye.

You must not be given this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering. If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should be given this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

It is advised not to become pregnant until at least three months after finishing a course of Lucentis treatment.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before starting treatment with Lucentis, become pregnant during treatment with Lucentis, plan to become pregnant in the near future or are breast-feeding.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had a stroke or experienced transient signs of a stroke (weakness or paralysis of limbs or face, difficulty speaking or understanding), known as a TIA (“mini-stroke”).

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid when you are given this medicine.

How Lucentis is given

Single-use vial for intravitreal use only.

Lucentis is given by your ophthalmologist (eye doctor) as an injection into your eye under a local anaesthetic.

Your doctor will ask you to use antimicrobial eye drops 4 times a day for 3 days before and after each injection. This is to prevent any possible eye infection.

Follow the directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor for help.

How much is given

The usual dose is 0.05mL (which contains 0.5mg of medicine). The interval between two doses should not be shorter than one month.

The injection is given once a month. Your doctor will monitor your vision monthly. If your vision remains the same while you are being given

Lucentis treatment, your doctor may decide to stop treatment with Lucentis. Your doctor will continue to monitor your vision monthly and will decide if treatment with Lucentis should be resumed or not.

If you are being treated for visual impairment due to DME or macular edema secondary to RVO, your doctor may decide that you also need to be treated with laser for these conditions. If so, laser treatment can be administered together with Lucentis.

How it is given

Lucentis is given as a single injection into your eye. You will receive adequate anaesthesia and a broad spectrum antibiotic before the injection.

In some patients the eye pressure may increase for a short period directly after the injection. There have also been reports of sustained eye pressure increase. This is something you may not notice; therefore your doctor should monitor this after each injection.

When it is given

Your doctor will decide when you will be given Lucentis.

How long to continue treatment

Continue treatment with this medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

If you forget a treatment

If you miss a Lucentis treatment, you need to contact your doctor to arrange another appointment as soon as possible.

If you stop Lucentis treatment, your eye disease may get worse.

If you are given too much (overdose)

If you are given more Lucentis than you need, your doctor will check the pressure in your eye and may need to treat it if it is increased.

While you are being given Lucentis

Things you must do

If you experience any problems during the treatment, tell your doctor.

If you notice any changes after you have been given Lucentis, inform your doctor immediately.

Tell your doctor immediately if you develop signs of inflammation and/or infection of the eye such as redness of the eye, eye pain, sensitivity to light and/or vision changes, seeing flashes of light with floaters (seeing cobwebs), progressing to a loss of sight or blurred vision.

A serious eye infection or eye disorder can sometimes develop after an injection into the eye.

If you become pregnant while being treated with this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

Things you must not do

Do not drive or operate machinery if your vision is poor, either because of your disease or because of the treatment.

This medicine may cause short-term problems with vision in some people. If you are affected, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous until your vision is normal.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being treated with Lucentis.

This medicine helps most people, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- eye irritation, clouding of the lens, a feeling of having something in the eye, dry eye, abnormal sensation in the eye
- eye discomfort, pain or irritation at the site of the injection, increased tear production, redness or itching of the eye, small particles or spots in your vision (floaters)
- sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache, joint pain, flu, fatigue, breathlessness, dizziness, pale skin, anxiety, cough, nausea, allergic reactions (rash, hives, itching, skin reddening).

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine. They are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- bloodshot eye, bleeding in the eye or at the site of injection, inflammation or infection of the eyelid margins, visual disturbance, blurred or decreased sharpness of vision, blindness (temporary or otherwise), bleeding of the eye
- discharge of the eye with itching, redness and swelling (conjunctivitis)
- scratches on the cornea (front part of the eye), swelling of a section of the eye (cornea, uvea), swelling or irritation of the eyelid, eyelid pain, sac of pus on the eye, inflammation of the cornea, accumulation of blood in the front part of the eye,

infection or inflammation of the inside of the eye

- symptoms of a urinary tract infection, including burning, stinging, pain or increased urgency to pass water.

The above list includes serious side effects which may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- signs of inflammation and/or infection of the eye such as redness of the eye, eye pain, sensitivity to light and/or vision changes.
- seeing flashes of light with floaters (seeing cobwebs), progressing to blurred vision or loss of sight.

Go to your nearest emergency room immediately if you experience signs of a stroke, such as weakness or paralysis of limbs or face, difficulty speaking or understanding.

If you experience any of these signs, immediate medical care is needed.

The above are serious side effects which might need immediate medical attention.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. Some of these side effects (e.g. an increase in the pressure inside your eye) can only be found when your doctor does tests to check your progress.

After you are given Lucentis

Storage

It is unlikely you will have to store Lucentis at home.

If you do have to store it:

- Keep it in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze it.
- Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect it from light.
- Do not store Lucentis or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.
- Do not leave it in the car or on a window sill.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep the medicine where children cannot reach it.

Each Lucentis vial and associated needles and syringe are to be used for one injection only and then discarded.

Product description

What it looks like

Lucentis is a clear, colourless to pale yellow solution in a clear, colourless glass vial. Lucentis is supplied as packs containing one glass vial containing 0.23mL of solution, one filter needle for withdrawal of the vial contents, one injection needle and one syringe for intravitreal injection.

Ingredients

Lucentis contains 2.3mg ranibizumab as the active ingredient.

It also contains:

- trehalose dihydrate
- histidine hydrochloride monohydrate
- histidine
- polysorbate 20
- water for injections.

Sponsor

Lucentis is supplied in New Zealand by:

Novartis New Zealand Limited
Private Bag 65904
Mairangi Bay
Auckland

Building G, 5 Orbit Drive
Rosedale
Auckland 0632
Telephone 0800 652 422

Date of preparation

This leaflet was prepared on 31
January 2012.

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