BUNBURY & BUSSELTON EYE SPECIALISTS

PATIENT INFO AND ADVICE

What is anti-VEGF treatment for macula oedema?

Cystoid macular oedema, commonly called CME, is a disorder that affects the retina, the layer of light-sensing cells lining the back of your eye.

CME is the presence of multiple fluid-filled, cyst-like (cystoid) structures in the **macula,** the central part of the retina responsible for central (detail) vision. The result is swelling (oedema) of the macula.

What causes CME?
Although the exact causes of CME are not known, it can be associated with:

- Retinal vein occlusion (blockage of a blood vessel in your retina)
- Uveitis (inflammation of the uvea, the outermost layer of your eye)
- Diabetes
- Eye surgery

It most commonly occurs after cataract surgery. About 3 percent of all cataract surgery patients will experience decreased vision due to CME, usually within a few months after surgery. If CME occurs within one eye, there is an increased risk that it will also occur in your other eye.

What are the symptoms of CME?

The most common symptom of CME is blurred or distorted central vision. CME does not affect peripheral (side) vision. Other symptoms can include pink-tinted or dim vision. Sometimes CME may be present when no visual loss occurs.

How is CME diagnosed?

Your ophthalmologist will take special photographs of the eye using **optical coherence tomography (OCT).**

What can you expect from anti-VEGF treatment?

The anti-VEGF drug must be injected into your eye with a very fine needle. Usually, patients receive multiple anti-VEGF injections over the course of many months.As with any medical procedure, there is a small risk of complications following anti-VEGF treatment. Any complications that might occur usually result from the injection itself, which in rare circumstances can injure the eye's lens or retina or lead to an infection. For most people, though, the benefit of the treatment outweighs the small risk of injection injury.

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