



Working with your Doctor

Your eye doctor is your best partner in protecting your vision. Your eye doctor can help you take control of your disease early, so you can keep the vision you have as long as possible.

Wet AMD is a chronic disease that requires early and regular treatment. It is important to commit to the treatments as prescribed by your doctor. Getting treatment early and keeping up with your treatments are essential to help preserve as much of your vision as possible. The longer you go without treatment, the more vision you may lose.

- In addition to MACUGEN, there are other treatments that retinal physicians may use for wet AMD. If your eye doctor confirms that you have wet AMD, he or she will talk to you about which treatment is right for you. Your eye doctor may even use different treatments at different times. Ask your eye doctor about the length and frequency of any treatment regimen. Also ask your eye doctor about the safety and efficacy of the treatment he or she prescribes over the long term.

It is important to tell your eye doctor about any other medical problems you have, even if they are not related to your eyes. This will help him or her decide on which treatment might be best for you. Examples of some conditions you should mention are:

- Previous myocardial infarction (MI, or heart attack)
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)

It is also important to always tell your eye doctor about any medications you may be on for these or other conditions. These factors may have an effect on which treatment is prescribed. Be sure to discuss the following with your eye doctor:

- Family history of eye disease
- Overall medical history, including other medical conditions
- Current medications
- Vitamins or other supplements



Be sure to stay in touch with your eye doctor to continuously monitor your condition. Your eye doctor may perform one or more of the following procedures or tests to check on your condition:

- Examination of the back of your eye: Your doctor may look at the back of your eye with a special device called an ophthalmoscope and may take pictures of the back of your eye
- Vision Test: Your eye doctor may test your vision with a standard eye chart
- Fluorescein angiography: In this test a special dye is injected into your arm. It allows your doctor to take pictures (not x-rays) of the back of your eye to see if AMD is present
- Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT): This is another type of picture of your eye. It shows a cross section of the back of your eye. This test helps your doctor see any fluid that may be leaking from abnormal blood vessels

Wet AMD can quickly lead to permanent damage to your central vision, so always check with your eye doctor immediately if you notice any changes in your eyesight. If you don't have an eye doctor, use the Eye Doctor Finder tool on this site to locate one near you.

One way to self-monitor for signs of changes in your eyesight is to do a simple test at home by looking at an "Amsler grid."

Always ask your retinal physician if you have questions or don't understand what to expect from the treatment he or she has prescribed. Careful monitoring of any changes to your vision and regular eye exams can help your eye doctor determine the appropriate treatment for your disease.

To listen to the full prescribing information regarding MACUGEN, please click on the link entitled "Important Safety Information" on the menu bar located on the left of the screen.



MACUGEN is approved to treat wet age-related macular degeneration. It is available by prescription only.

Not all people respond the same to MACUGEN, so individual results may vary. The safety or efficacy of MACUGEN has not been proven beyond 2 years.

Important safety information

With MACUGEN, you may have some side effects, mostly in the eye and due to the injection procedure. The most common side effects are burning sensation, eye pain, redness, light sensitivity, vision loss, blurred vision, visual disturbances, high blood pressure, and cataract. For a complete list of side effects, please ask your doctor or see the prescribing information.

You should not receive MACUGEN if you have an infection in or around your eye or if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to pegaptanib sodium or any of the other ingredients.

A serious eye infection can sometimes develop after an injection into the eye. Signs of a serious infection may include eye pain, light sensitivity, and/or vision changes. Check with a retinal physician immediately if you experience any of these symptoms, so you can be treated early if an infection occurs.

Eye injections like those with MACUGEN can increase eye pressure. This is something you would not notice; however, your retinal physician may do some extra tests after your injection to make sure there are no complications.

In rare cases, allergic reactions have been known to occur. Tell your retinal physician about any known allergies.

Please follow your retinal physician's recommendations for your therapy. If you have any questions about MACUGEN, ask your retinal physician.

The health information contained herein is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace discussions with a health care provider. All decisions regarding patient care must be made with a health care provider, considering the unique characteristics of the patient.

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