



# Lucentis eye injections

## What is Lucentis?

Lucentis (also known as Ranibizumab) is an eye injection which is used to treat severe Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a potentially blinding eye disease in premature babies. This medication works by slowing down the growth of abnormal blood vessels in the retina.

## Why does my baby need Lucentis?

Your baby's eye imaging shows acute changes or rapid development of ROP.

## What is the process?

Once it has been decided by the Ophthalmologist (eye specialist) that Lucentis is needed, you will be asked to sign a written consent form before the procedure is performed. The injection is administered by the Ophthalmologist who is experienced in this procedure.

Similar to the ROP screening process, your baby will be swaddled for comfort, given sucrose and eye numbing drops. The Ophthalmologist will clean the eye with povidone iodine, a brown coloured disinfectant before starting the procedure. A speculum will be used to keep your baby's eyes open during the procedure.

The procedure happens at the bedside and only takes a few minutes. Sometimes, the Lucentis injections may be done on the same day as imaging if the Ophthalmologist considers it necessary. Other times, they are done within 72 hours of imaging.

## What is the recovery?

Usually, your baby can continue their usual feeding and care routine. The recovery process for Lucentis is typically straight forward. Your baby will be protected from the lights with an incubator cover (if they are in an incubator) or the lights will be dimmed if your baby is in a cot.

After the injection, your baby will receive an antibiotic eye drop (Chlorsig® or chloramphenicol) for 5-7 days.

## Will my baby need Lucentis again?

Some babies need more than 1 set of injections if the ROP continues to progress, there is limited response to the treatment, or ROP reoccurs a few weeks after the injections.

## Follow up

Repeat images will be taken 1 week after Lucentis treatment. The ROP screening team will continue to image your baby's eyes every 1 - 2 weeks until discharge.



Regular eye checks will continue in Ophthalmology follow-up clinics once you have been discharged home.

At about 6 months of age, the Ophthalmologist will request that your baby have a Fundus Fluorescein Angiography procedure. This procedure is performed under a general anaesthetic to see how the blood vessels are growing. Your baby may require laser treatment, which will be performed at the same time.

If you have any questions, please ask your nurse to contact the ROP Screening team.



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