

Columbus Ophthalmology Associates
INTRAOCULAR KENALOG INJECTION

When is an injection necessary?

Diabetes and other retinal vascular diseases can affect vision in a variety of ways. Swelling or edema of the center part of the retina, which is used to focus images, can cause blurred vision. A fluorescein angiogram test may be performed to evaluate this condition. This dye/photograph test will show where micro aneurysms and other small areas of leakage are present that are responsible for the central swelling in the retina. If these areas are far enough away from the very center of the retina, they can be safely treated with laser photocoagulation to stabilize, and in some cases improve vision. However, if the small leaky vessel abnormalities are located centrally or are numerous, laser treatment would leave undesirable blind spots and small scars. A preferable treatment, in these instances, is to inject the eye with medication called Triamcinolone, or Kenalog.

What is Kenalog?

This is a cortisone medication, which will decrease inflammation and retinal swelling. It can also stabilize, and in some cases, improve vision. The Kenalog is in suspension form and shortly after injection the patient will notice some floaters. These settle quickly as the medication settles toward the bottom of the eye. The medication does tend to absorb over a 4 to 12 week period. If good vision improvement is obtained with its use, it can be repeated.

How is the procedure performed?

The eye is cleansed carefully before the injection of medication just as if the eye were going to have an operation. Sedation and some anesthesia is used to make the injection comfortable.

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