

A Patient Guide to Visudyne™ (verteporfin for injection) Therapy



Provided as a service by



Part number: 081293

Printed in USA

This guide has been designed to help you understand how Visudyne therapy works and what you can do before and after treatment to prevent a photosensitivity reaction - a potential side effect in anyone treated with Visudyne. If after reading this guide you have further questions, be sure to discuss them with your doctor.

Full prescribing information is provided at the back of this booklet.

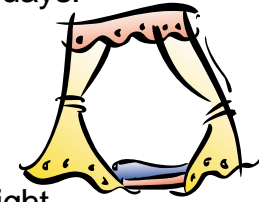
Before Treatment

Visudyne therapy is a treatment for the wet, or neovascular, form of AMD. It uses a combination of a photoactive drug (a light-activated drug) and light from a non-thermal laser (A laser that does not burn the retina).

After administration of Visudyne therapy, your skin and eyes will be photosensitive. As a precaution, avoid direct sunlight and bright lights for five days.

Home:

- Be sure that if you are near a window in your home during daylight, you have curtains or shades to block out **direct** sunlight.
- Avoid direct sunlight from skylights.



Bring to the doctor's office:

- Dark Sunglasses



- Gloves



- Wide-Brimmed hat

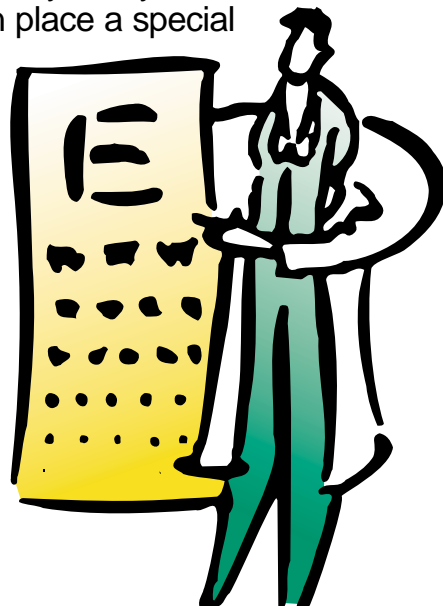


- Long-sleeved shirt and slacks



During Treatment

- You will be given an infusion of the light-activated drug Visudyne.
- 15 minutes after the start of the Visudyne infusion, light from a laser will activate the drug within the abnormal blood vessels, which will stop their growth. Since the type of laser used in Visudyne therapy is non-thermal, meaning no heat is involved, it will not burn.
- Your doctor will numb your eye with eyedrops, and then place a special contact lens on the eye.
- A laser light will then be directed through the contact lens onto the affected area of the retina.
- The light is applied for 83 seconds.



After Treatment

Your skin and eyes will be sensitive to bright light.

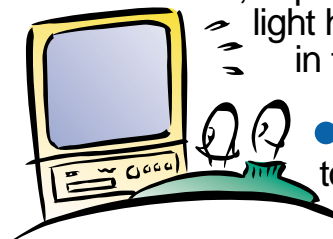
- As a precaution, avoid exposure to direct sunlight or bright light for five days.

Bright light includes but is not limited to:

- bright sunlight
- tanning salons
- halogen lighting in homes and offices (including bright halogen reading lamps, etc.)
- lighting used in dentist's office or in surgery operating room.



- You should **not** stay in the dark. In fact, exposing your skin to indoor light helps to inactivate the drug in the skin.



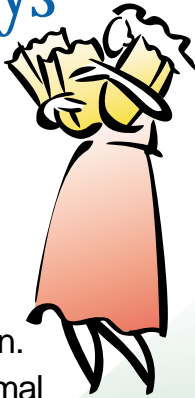
- You can watch TV or go to the movies.

- Stay away from undraped windows or skylights for five days.



Avoid Exposure to Direct Sunlight for five days

- If possible, wait until sundown to do outside chores (such as shopping).
- UV sunscreens are **not** effective in protecting against photosensitivity reactions.
- You should **not** stay in the dark. Exposing your skin to indoor light helps to inactivate the drug in the skin.
- After five days, you may resume normal outdoor activities without any special precautions.



If you DO go out during daylight hours within the first five days, WEAR:

- Long-sleeved shirt and slacks
- Preferably tight-knit, light colored fabrics
- Gloves
- Socks and shoes
- Sunglasses
- Wide-brimmed hat



Patient Follow-up

Every Three Months

1. Your vision will be checked.
2. A fluorescein angiogram (the dye exam) and pictures will be taken to determine whether retreatment is recommended.
3. Another Visudyne treatment may be given if your physician believes it would be beneficial.

Doctor's Information

Important information for family members and doctors in case of emergency.

Name of Doctor

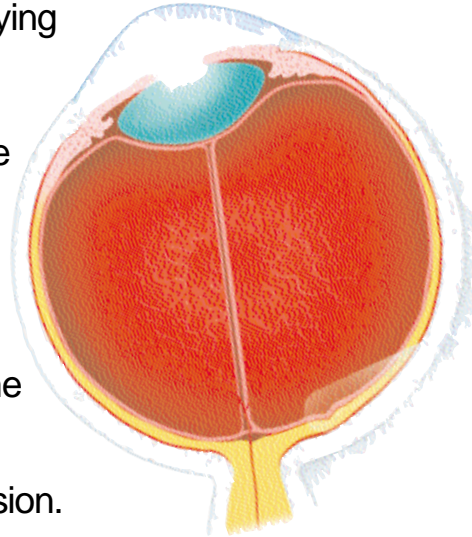
Doctor's Phone Number

Why Visudyne Therapy?

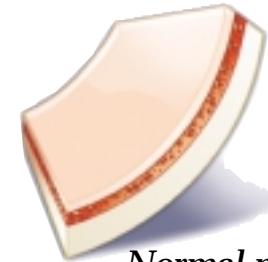
A beneficial aspect of Visudyne therapy is the fact that it can destroy the abnormal blood vessels without causing thermal (heat) damage to the overlying sensory retina.

Unlike other AMD treatments, Visudyne therapy may work toward stabilizing vision. In other words, this treatment may confine and inhibit the progression of wet AMD, and thereby preserve patients' vision.

Visudyne may not stop vision loss in all patients. Adverse reactions to Visudyne therapy may include: skin reactions at the injection site, blurred vision, or vision defects. 2.2% of Visudyne patients had back pain related to infusion. Severe vision decrease occurred in 1% to 4% of patients. Your doctor should be consulted if any of these conditions exist after Visudyne treatment.



Macula region



Normal macula



Abnormal new blood vessels under the retina are called choroidal neovascularization



Visudyne therapy destroys abnormal blood vessels.

Check with your doctor to see if you might have a sensitivity to any component of Visudyne therapy, or to see if there is any reason why you should not be treated with Visudyne therapy.