

Frequently Asked Questions – Cidofovir Injection

What is a cidofovir injection? Cidofovir is a medication injected into a permanently blind eye and functions to destroy the structure (ciliary body) that produces fluid inside the eye. If successful, this causes a decrease in intraocular pressures and improves comfort level of the patient. This procedure is reserved for irreversibly blind eyes only in order to improve comfort and does not restore vision.

What kind of care is needed after the injection? 2 different eye drops will need to be administered (an antibiotic and an anti-inflammatory) 4 times a day for approximately 10-14 days after the injection. These can be spread out during your waking hours and do not have to be given exactly every 6 hours. These are essential to ensure the highest level of success from the injection. Moderate discharge and/or a blood-tinged discharge from the eye may be present for 10-14 days that will require daily cleansing using a warm water-soaked cotton ball.

What will the eye look like after the injection? The eye will look very similar to how it looked prior to the injection. A dark red, slightly raised area may form on the sclera (white part of the eye) from the needle placement. This resolves on its own within 3-5 days. A clear discharge may be present afterwards, and can last up to 24 hours.

Will my pet have to be under anesthesia? No. Your pet will need to be sedated, but will not undergo general anesthesia. It may still take your pet 24 hours to recover from sedation, and some patients may take even longer.

How long will it take for the intraocular pressures to come down? The intraocular pressures will be extremely low immediately following the injection. If the injection is successful, the pressures will remain low. Intraocular pressures will need to be measured again in about 4 weeks to determine if the injection was successful.

What complications can occur with this procedure? Because we are placing a needle inside the eye, there is a risk of infection. For this reason, it is important to follow our post-operative treatment recommendations sent home. Bleeding can develop inside of the eye immediately following the injection, but this usually resolves in time and isn't a cause for concern. Depending on the patient's response to the injection, it is possible the injection may work too well, causing the globe to shrink over time (phthisis bulbi- this will change the cosmetic appearance of the eye, but does not hinder the comfort level of the patient) or the injection may not work as well, and may need to be repeated due to an increase in intraocular pressures. One recheck appointment is included at no charge following surgery (4 weeks after injection) and is necessary to determine if the injection was successful. If complications do arise, additional rechecks, surgery, and/or medications may be necessary.

I have read and understand the above information. The risks and complications associated with surgery have been explained to me to my understanding and satisfaction. I understand that I am responsible for keeping my recheck appointment and asking any questions I have about this surgical procedure, aftercare instructions, and possible complications associated with this surgical procedure prior to pursuing surgery. In signing below, I understand and accept these risks.

X _____ DATE _____