



This is a non-promotional booklet produced and fully funded by Bayer for patients who have been prescribed EYLEA (aflibercept) 8 mg for wet age-related macular degeneration (wet AMD, also known as neovascular AMD), visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DMO) or retinal vein occlusion (RVO).

# A guide to treatment with EYLEA® (aflibercept) 8 mg



# About this booklet

You have been given this booklet because you are receiving treatment for wet AMD, DMO or RVO with a medicine called EYLEA (aflibercept) 8 mg. This booklet will provide information about your eye condition, EYLEA 8 mg and your treatment schedule.

It has been designed to accompany the **Your guide to EYLEA** booklet and the **EYLEA patient information leaflet**.

## **This booklet includes:**

- An introduction to vision and how it is affected by wet AMD, DMO and RVO
- An overview of your treatment, EYLEA 8 mg (eight mg), and how it differs from EYLEA 2 mg (two mg)
- What to expect during your treatment visits, and possible side effects and adverse reactions to look out for
- Your treatment schedule
- An Amsler grid to help you monitor your central field of vision
- Information on how to access further resources

# Finding out more

Bayer has worked with staff and patients from Manchester Royal Eye Hospital to create videos that provide useful information about several topics that are explained in this booklet. These videos can be accessed by scanning the QR codes throughout the booklet with the camera of a smartphone or tablet, or by visiting the website addresses that are listed.



# Vision and the eye

When we look at things, light passes through the front layer of the eye, known as the **cornea**, and is then focused onto the back of the eye by the **lens**.

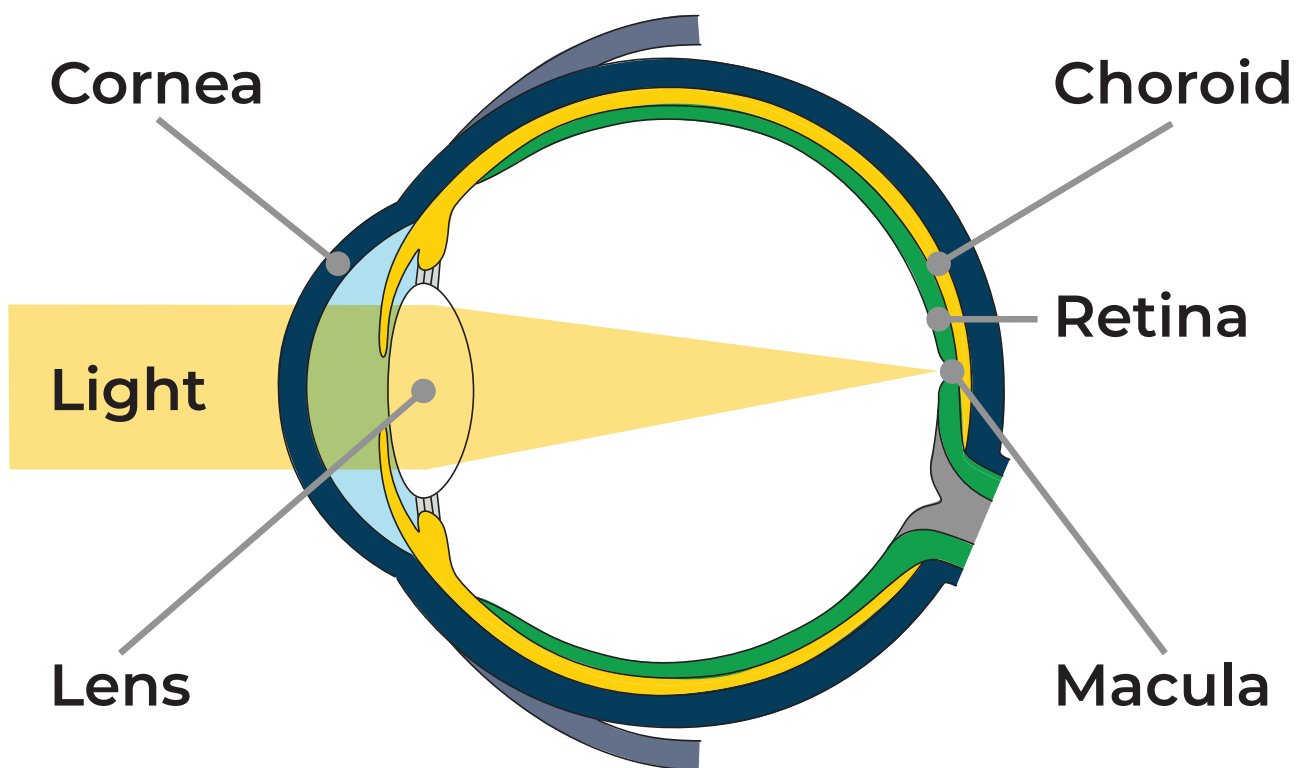
The layer at the back of the eye that senses light is known as the **retina**.

The small area in the centre of the retina is known as the **macula** and is important for central vision and seeing fine detail.

The **choroid** is a layer of the eye that lies next to the retina. It contains a network of blood vessels that supply the retina with blood.

# Diagram of the eye

## Cross section of the eye



# What is wet AMD?

Wet age-related macular degeneration is also known as wet AMD or neovascular AMD. In eyes with wet AMD, **abnormal, leaky blood vessels** grow in the macula. The leaky blood vessels cause **blood or fluid to build up** at the back of the eye. If untreated, this leads to **scarring** of the macula and **rapid loss of central vision**.

## Healthy macula



## Macula affected by wet AMD



# Wet AMD: Find out more

To find out more about wet AMD, scan the QR code below to visit the **SmartStream** page of Bayer's **SmartBrowse** website, and scroll down to '**Chapter 2**':



**SmartStream** can also be accessed at:

**<https://www.smartbrowse.co.uk/smartstream>**

# What is DMO?

Diabetic macular oedema, also known as DMO, is a **complication of diabetes**. If **blood sugar levels are high** for long periods of time, this can cause **damage to blood vessels** throughout the body, including those in the eye.

Sometimes, damage to blood vessels at the back of the eye can cause them to **leak fluid**. This fluid can build up in the macula, causing **blurring** of the central vision.

This is known as DMO.

## Healthy macula

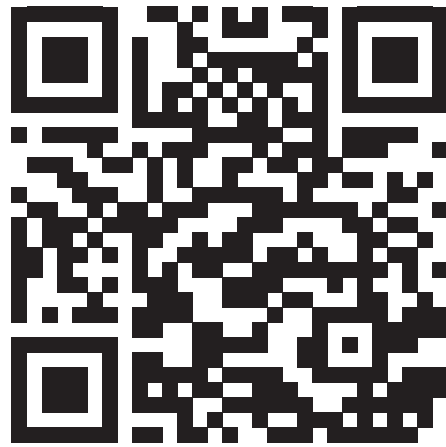


## Macula affected by DMO



# DMO: Find out more

To find out more about DMO, scan the QR code below to visit the **SmartStream** page of Bayer's **SmartBrowse** website, and scroll down to '**Chapter 3**':



**SmartStream** can also be accessed at:

**<https://www.smartbrowse.co.uk/smartstream>**

# What is RVO?

**Retinal vein occlusion**, also known as RVO, occurs when **veins draining blood from the retina become blocked**, affecting vision. There are two types, **branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO)** and **central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO)**.

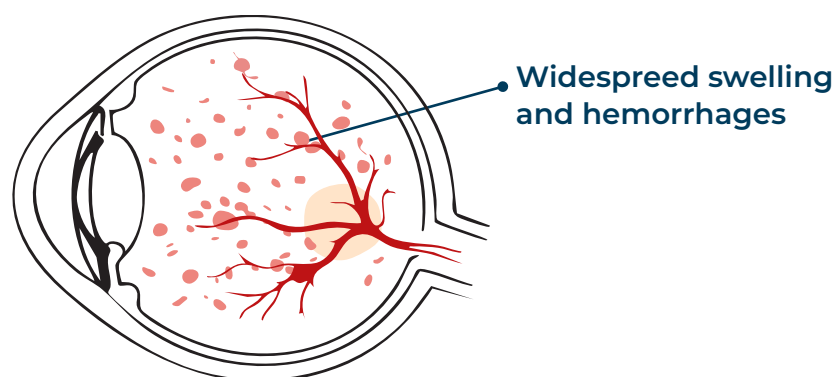
Blockages prevent proper blood drainage, prompting the retina to release **VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor)**. While VEGF aims to help, it can cause leaky vessels and the growth of fragile, non-functional vessels. This leakage leads to **retinal swelling** which causing a **blurring or reduction in vision**.

If the blockage and swelling continue, the retina can be permanently damaged, leading to **lasting changes in vision**.

# RVO: Find out more

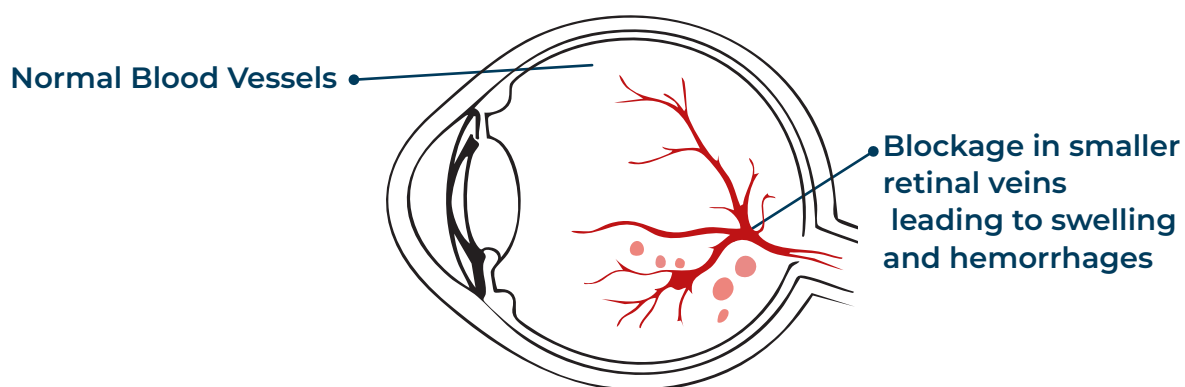
## Central Retinal Vein Occlusion (CRVO)

**CRVO** involves blockage of the main vein, affecting a larger area.



## Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion (BRVO)

**BRVO** involves blockage in smaller retinal veins, impacting nearby areas.



# What is EYLEA 8 mg?

**Vascular endothelial growth factor**, also known as **VEGF**, is a protein that controls the growth and permeability (leakiness) of blood vessels throughout the body, including in the eye.

EYLEA 8 mg is a type of treatment known as an **anti-vascular endothelial growth factor**, also known as an **anti-VEGF**.

EYLEA 8 mg aims to block the action of VEGF in the eye. This action can help to reduce the amount of fluid in the retina and macula, which can lead to vision improvement, or stop vision from getting worse.

In the UK, EYLEA 8 mg is approved for use in adults for the treatment of wet AMD, visual impairment due to DMO and RVO.

AMD, age-related macular degeneration;

DMO, diabetic macular oedema; RVO, retinal vein occlusion;

VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

# Anti-VEGF: Find out more

To find out more about VEGF and treatment with anti-VEGF eye injections, scan the QR code below to visit the **SmartStream** page of Bayer's **SmartBrowse** website, and scroll down to '**Chapter 1**':



**SmartStream** can also be accessed at:

<https://www.smartbrowse.co.uk/smartstream>

## EYLEA 2 mg and 8 mg

**EYLEA** can be prescribed as **either one of two doses**; 2 mg (two mg) or 8 mg (eight mg). Both EYLEA 2 mg (two mg) and EYLEA 8 mg (eight mg) contain the same active substance, **aflibercept**. However, injections of **EYLEA 8 mg (eight mg)** have a **larger volume** and are **more concentrated** than **EYLEA 2 mg (two mg)** injections to allow a **higher dose** of aflibercept to be delivered into the eye.

By injecting a **higher dose** of medication, it is hoped that injections may be needed **less often** because there is enough medication in the eye to **control the disease** for **longer** than would be possible with a lower dose.

# Treatment doses explained

## Lower dose of medication injected:



## Higher dose of medication injected:



EYLEA 8 mg (eight mg) injections deliver a **larger quantity** of aflibercept into the eye than EYLEA 2 mg (two mg) injections. **Over an equal length of time**, this means that the amount of aflibercept in the eye should remain higher if you have been injected with **EYLEA 8 mg (eight mg)** compared with EYLEA 2 mg (two mg).

# What to expect

EYLEA 8 mg is a liquid that is injected into the vitreous gel inside the eye, through the white of the eye.

While it is understandable to worry about an injection, your doctor will make sure the surface of your eye is numb so you should feel no more than a little pressure during the procedure, and you will not need to look at the needle.

Your doctor or nurse will be able to answer any questions and help you throughout the injection process to ensure you are as comfortable as possible.

# Preparing for the injection procedure: find out more

To find out more about the steps involved in receiving an anti-VEGF eye injection and to hear from patients about their treatment experience, scan the QR code below to visit the **SmartSupport** page of Bayer's **SmartBrowse** website, and scroll down to '**The anti-VEGF eye injection treatment procedure**' video:



**SmartSupport** can also be accessed at:

**<https://www.smartbrowse.co.uk/smartsupport>**

# Possible side effects

Just like any medicine, EYLEA 8 mg can cause side effects and adverse reactions, although not everybody gets them.

The **EYLEA patient information leaflet** contains a full list of possible side effects and adverse reactions.

Some important symptoms of adverse reactions to look out for are listed on the next page.

If you experience any symptoms, including any that are not listed in this booklet or the patient information leaflet, **talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.**

You can also report side effects and adverse reactions directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

# Symptoms to look out for

If you experience any of the signs or symptoms listed below, **contact your doctor as soon as possible**.

Condition	Some potential signs or symptoms
Infection or inflammation inside the eye	Eye pain or increased discomfort, worsening eye redness, sensitivity to light, swelling of the eyelid, vision changes such as sudden decrease in vision or blurring of vision
Clouding of the lens (cataract)	Blurry vision, seeing shadows, less vivid lines and shapes, colour vision changes (e.g. colours looked 'washed out')
Increased eye pressure	Seeing halos around lights, eye pain, experiencing a red eye, nausea or vomiting, vision changes
A detachment or tear of a layer of the retina	Sudden flashes of light, a sudden appearance or an increase of floaters, curtain-like effect over a portion of the visual area, vision changes

By reporting side effects and adverse reactions, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

# Your treatment schedule

Your doctor will discuss your EYLEA 8 mg treatment schedule with you, including how your treatment schedule is changing over time, depending on what is right for you.

- Have you previously received anti-VEGF injections in the eye that is to be treated with EYLEA 8 mg?
- **If NO:** Initially, you should expect to receive an injection of EYLEA 8 mg every month, for three months
- **If YES:** You might receive an injection of EYLEA 8 mg every month for up to three months, or alternatively, the interval that was used with your previous anti-VEGF treatment might also be used with EYLEA 8 mg

You might then receive treatment:

At **fixed intervals**, for example, every eight or ten weeks.

According to a **treat-and-extend (T&E)** regimen. **Treat-and-extend** is a commonly used approach where how often you receive eye injections is tailored to your individual treatment needs. The goal is to keep your eye condition stable while avoiding unnecessary injections.

# Treat-and-extend explained

When a **treat-and-extend** regimen is used with EYLEA 8 mg:

- **If you have not** previously received anti-VEGF eye injections, you will initially receive an EYLEA 8 mg eye injection every month for three months
- **If you are switching** from another anti-VEGF eye injection to EYLEA 8 mg, you might not receive these three monthly doses
- Your healthcare team will try to gradually increase the amount of time between EYLEA 8 mg injections, while ensuring your eye condition is under control
- Treatment intervals may be extended, stay the same, or be reduced, depending on your response to treatment. The interval between each injection is usually adjusted by two or four weeks at a time
- The shortest interval between injections is four weeks and the longest interval that can be reached is 24 for nAMD and DMO and 20 weeks for RVO.

# Are treatment intervals always changed gradually?

While it is uncommon, if your eye responds very well to initial treatment with EYLEA 8 mg:

- The interval between injections can increase by four weeks or more after the first three injections or after switching to EYLEA 8 mg. The length of increase will be discussed with you and will depend upon how well your eye has responded to treatment with EYLEA 8 mg
- After the treatment interval increase, your treatment interval can be gradually reduced to a minimum of four weeks, maintained, or extended to a maximum of twenty-four weeks (in nAMD and DMO) and twenty weeks (in RVO).

# Your appointments

Your healthcare team will discuss your anti-VEGF injection treatment schedule with you every time you visit the eye clinic. You should note down your future appointments somewhere that you can refer to, such as in the appointment diary in this booklet. It is very important that you attend all of your appointments so that you can receive the eye care that you need. If you have questions about your treatment schedule, talk to your healthcare team.

# Your EYLEA 8 mg appointment diary

You can use this appointment diary to help you keep track of your treatment schedule:

Dose 1	Date:	Time:
Dose 2	Date:	Time:
Dose 3	Date:	Time:
Dose 4	Date:	Time:
Dose 5	Date:	Time:
Dose 6	Date:	Time:
Dose 7	Date:	Time:
Dose 8	Date:	Time:
Dose 9	Date:	Time:
Dose 10	Date:	Time:
Dose 11	Date:	Time:
Dose 12	Date:	Time:

If you're unable to attend an appointment, or if you need to rearrange one for a different date, please let your clinic know as soon as possible.

# Contact details

Use this space to note down your clinic's contact details so that if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact your healthcare team:

**My eye care clinic:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor / nurse:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Notes

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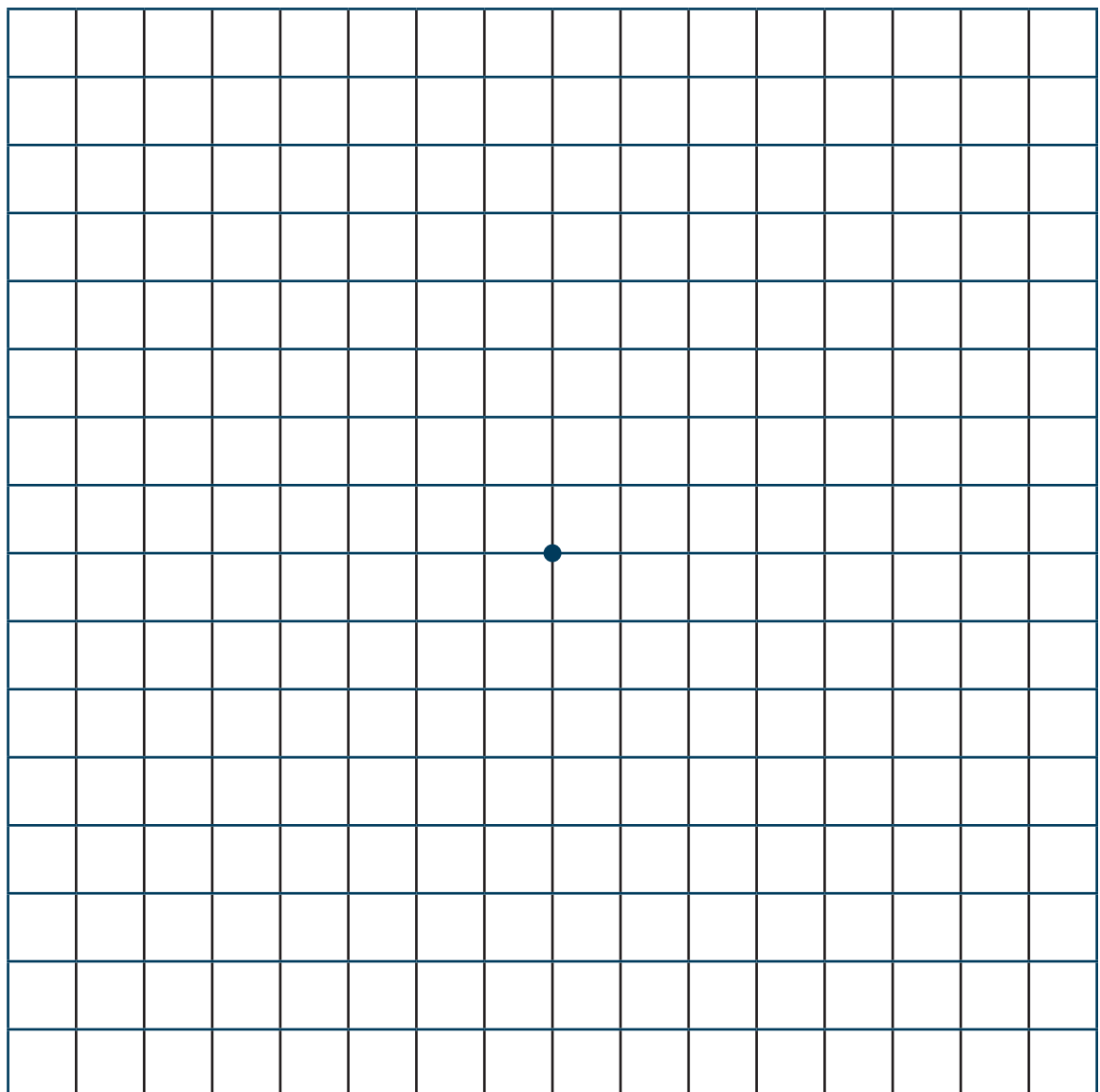
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# Amsler grid

Testing your eyes using this Amsler grid once a day, every day, will help you to notice any changes in your vision. There are instructions for using the Amsler grid on the next page.



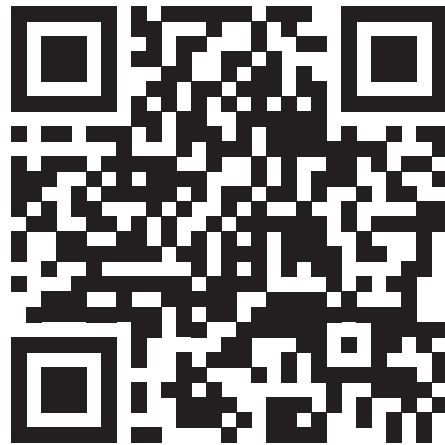
# Testing your eyes with an Amsler grid

- If you wear reading glasses, make sure you have them on
  - Hold the grid at a comfortable reading distance
  - Test each eye separately:
    - Cup your hand over one eye while testing the other eye
    - Keep your eye focused on the dot in the centre of the grid and answer these questions:
1. Do any of the lines in the grid appear wavy, blurred or distorted?
  2. Do all the boxes in the grid look square and the same size?
  3. Are there any holes (missing areas) or dark areas in the grid?
  4. Can you see all corners and sides of the grid (while keeping your eye on the central dot)?
- Switch to the other eye and repeat

**If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, and this is different from normal, contact your eye clinic for advice.**



# SmartBrowse


Bayer's SmartBrowse website features videos that provide information about wet AMD, DMO and treatment with anti-VEGF eye injections, alongside insightful articles, interviews, recipes and tips for living with visual impairment. You can access SmartBrowse by scanning the QR code below with the camera of a smartphone or tablet, or by visiting [www.smartbrowse.co.uk](http://www.smartbrowse.co.uk).



The SmartBrowse website is fully funded and produced by Bayer. AMD, age-related macular degeneration; DMO, diabetic macular oedema; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

# Snapshots from the SmartBrowse website

 SmartBrowse SmartRead SmartStream SmartListen SmartEat SmartSupport 



**Welcome to SmartBrowse**

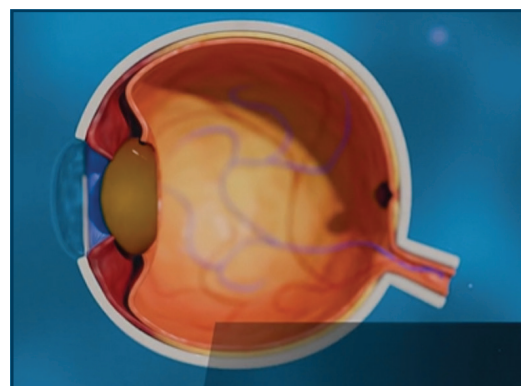
**Celebrating the Small Victories:  
A Path to Achieving Greater Goals**

**Ask the experts**  
-Questions and Answers-

What is anti-VEGF?



Macular treatment Centre



**On the bright side.**  
In conversation with Gilly Thomas, who doesn't let her diagnosis leave her feeling

# Support with travelling to clinic appointments

If you have a visual impairment, you may be eligible for **discounted travel** on buses, trains and other forms of transport. The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) has produced a **travel support guide**, which is full of information to help you to get to and from your clinic appointments as well as for travel in your day-to-day life. You can access this by scanning the QR code below with the camera of a smartphone or tablet, or at the following website: [https://media.rnib.org.uk/documents/Confident\\_Living\\_Travel\\_2021.pdf](https://media.rnib.org.uk/documents/Confident_Living_Travel_2021.pdf).



Your healthcare team can also provide information about any support your hospital can offer for getting to and from appointments.

# Other resources

For more information about your condition and its treatment or for support, you can visit the following websites that are run by UK charities:

**Macular Society:** [www.macularsociety.org](http://www.macularsociety.org)

**Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB):** [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

**Sightline:** [www.sightline.org.uk](http://www.sightline.org.uk)



**Your healthcare team** will be able to tell you about any local support or resources that might be available, or you can search for available support in your area using the

**RNIB's Sightline Directory:**

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/sightline-directory/>

For further information,  
please contact Bayer Medical Information at:

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