



## Appendix A to RANZCO Guidelines for Performing Intravitreal Therapy

### Intravitreal Injections Information Sheet and Consent Form

#### What is an intravitreal Injection?

An intravitreal injection is an injection into the vitreous which is the jelly like substance inside your eye..

#### Why is an intravitreal injection performed?

Intravitreal injections are used to deliver drugs to the retina and other structures in the back of the eye. Common conditions treated with intravitreal injections include diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal vascular diseases and ocular inflammation. These conditions often require a course of repeated intravitreal injections.

#### What is the intravitreal injection procedure?

We will lie you in a comfortable position. Anaesthetic (numbing) drops will be placed in your eye, and your eye will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution. This may initially cause a stinging feeling. The eye is usually held open with an instrument (speculum). The medicine is then injected into your vitreous: you may feel slight pressure and a momentary sharp feeling on the eye when this is done. After the injection procedure, the doctor will check your eye and your eye may be covered with an eye pad.

#### What are the side effects?

After the injection you may have a gritty feeling in the eye, and the eye may look bloodshot. This will usually resolve over a few days. You may see floaters which will become smaller and disappear over one to two weeks. Sometimes you may see round floaters which are tiny bubbles of air - these are harmless, and will be absorbed by the eye within 1-2 days.

#### Are there any risks?

Injecting any medication into the eye may result in increased pressure within the eye, inflammation, or more serious side effects such as cataract formation, bleeding within the eye, damage to the retina (retinal detachment or tear) or other eye structures. These side effects are rare, estimated at less than 1 per 1000 injections. It is possible that you may get an infection within your eye (endophthalmitis) as a result of the intravitreal injection. The chance of an infection is low (estimated at less than 1 per 1000 injections). An infection may lead to vision loss or, in rare cases, loss of the eye.

