

Repeated eye injections for age-related macular degeneration associated with increased risk for glaucoma

16 March 2017

Patients with age-related macular degeneration who received seven or more eye injections of the drug bevacizumab annually had a higher risk of having glaucoma surgery, according to a study published online by *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

The advent of intravitreal (in the vitreous, the fluid behind the lens in the eye) anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) injections to treat common causes of vision loss, such as exudative (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and [diabetic macular edema](#) has improved visual outcomes for many patients. Intravitreal injections of anti-VEGF agents may increase the risk of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP); however, the risk of developing moderate to advanced glaucoma requiring [glaucoma surgery](#) has been unclear.

Brennan D. Eadie, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and colleagues conducted a study that included patients who had received intravitreal bevacizumab injections for exudative [age-related macular degeneration](#). Cases were identified using glaucoma surgical codes for various procedures. For each case, 10 controls were identified; the number of intravitreal bevacizumab injections received per year was determined for both cases and controls.

Seventy-four cases of glaucoma surgery and 740 controls were identified. The researchers found that seven or more injections were associated with a significantly higher risk of glaucoma surgery.

"Clinicians should be aware of the potential association of repeated, recent intravitreal anti-VEGF injections for diseases, such as exudative AMD, with subsequent need for glaucoma surgery," the authors write.

More information: *JAMA Ophthalmol.* Published online March 16, 2017. [DOI: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2017.0059](#)

Provided by The JAMA Network Journals

APA citation: Repeated eye injections for age-related macular degeneration associated with increased risk for glaucoma (2017, March 16) retrieved 4 December 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-03-eye-age-related-macular-degeneration-glaucoma.html>

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