



Patient & Family Guide

2022

# Endophthalmitis



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# Endophthalmitis

## What is endophthalmitis?

Endophthalmitis is a type of severe (very bad) eye infection. It can lead to permanent vision loss in the infected eye. The amount of vision loss will depend on:

- › what caused the infection.
- › how much damage the infection does to the eye.

## What are the possible treatments?

### Tap and inject

- You will get anesthesia (medication to freeze your eye) to prevent pain and discomfort.
- A small needle will be used to take a sample of the fluid from your eye. This fluid will be sent to the lab to find out what type of infection you have.
- Antibiotic medication will be injected into your eye to heal the infection.

## Vitrectomy

- This is a surgery to clean the inside of your eye and remove as much of the infection as possible.
- You will get anesthesia to prevent pain and discomfort.
- A small needle will be used to remove fluid and pus (thick yellow or green infected liquid) from your eye. This fluid will be sent to the lab to find out what type of infection you have.
- The fluid that is removed will be replaced with saline (salt water).
- Antibiotic medication will be injected into your eye to heal the infection. You may need a second injection of antibiotics depending on the type of infection.
- You may need a second vitrectomy depending on the type of infection.

## Eye drops

- You will need to put antibiotic drops in your eye every 30 minutes to 1 hour for several weeks. This will help to control the infection and swelling.
- You may also need anti-inflammatory eye drops (including steroid drops) often. This will help control swelling.

## Other medications

- You may be given antibiotic pills or an intravenous (IV) for several days. This is to help the infection.
- **Tell your nurse or doctor if you notice any changes (like more discomfort or pain, swelling, and/or vision loss).**
  - › If you are at home, call Locating at the VG at 902-473-2222 and ask to have the ophthalmology resident on call paged, or call your eye doctor's office.

## Follow-up

You will need follow-up appointments often to check your vision and make sure that the infection is gone.

### **If you are admitted to the hospital:**

- You may be asked to stay in your room to prevent the infection from spreading.
- The nurses are very good at giving eye drops and will try not to disturb you while you sleep.

## Pain

Please tell your nurse if you feel you need pain medication.



### **Looking for more health information?**

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here: <https://library.nshealth.ca/PatientEducation>

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.