

Ranibizumab – Switching Brands

Information for the user

Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are currently being treated with ranibizumab. This product is commonly referred to by its brand name Lucentis®. Until recently, only one manufacturer produced ranibizumab.

Ranibizumab is now available from another manufacturer. This manufacturer's version of ranibizumab is known as a biosimilar medicine. The NHS in Wales is now using a biosimilar version of ranibizumab called Ongavia®. In the future, further biosimilar versions of ranibizumab may become available from other manufacturers.

What is a biosimilar?

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined a biosimilar as a medicine that is similar in terms of quality, safety and efficacy (effectiveness) to the original licensed product. This means that biosimilars (such as Ongavia®) are allowed to have small structural differences from the original licensed product (Lucentis®) but this does not alter how well the medicine works, how safe it is, or how the drug reacts with the body's immune system.

Biosimilars are regulated in a similar way to the original licensed product and must meet the same standards of safety, quality and efficacy.

What does this change mean for me?

Because Ongavia® and Lucentis® contain the same active product (ranibizumab), the treatment you receive for your eye condition remains unchanged.

As with all medicines, if you experience any side effects from your treatment, you should report it to your ophthalmology practitioner, doctor, nurse or pharmacist. You can also use the Yellow Card app (download from [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#)) or [site](#) to report side effects.

What is ranibizumab?

Ranibizumab is a medicine injected into the eye by an ophthalmologist or qualified ophthalmology practitioner.

What is ranibizumab used for?

Ranibizumab belongs to a group of medicines called anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (anti-VEGF) treatments. Ranibizumab is one of many treatments used for a range of eye conditions that affect the retina (the light sensitive tissue lining at the back of the eye).

Ranibizumab is given as a course of injections into the eye. Over time, the injections can prevent further loss of vision and, in some cases, they can improve your vision. Your ophthalmologist or ophthalmology practitioner will discuss the number and frequency of injections with you as part of your treatment plan.

Further advice

If you have further queries about ranibizumab or biosimilar medicines, please discuss with a member of your ophthalmology clinical team or pharmacist who can advise you on your treatment.

The Macular Society has an Advice and Information Service to offer support and guidance: 0300 3030 111.

There are further resources available on the **Wales Council of the Blind** website at <http://www.wcb-ccd.org.uk/support.php> that you may find helpful.

Mae'r daflen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This leaflet is also available in Welsh.