

- Injection of antibiotics into the vitreous of the eye is most commonly needed to control the infection.
- \* Your treating eye doctor will determine the length of time you will be required to stay in hospital. The decision depends upon the improvement of the infection with intensive antibiotic treatment and/or surgery.
- \* Improvement of your vision can be very slow and limited. Improvement can continue after discharge. Occasionally more than one operation may be required.

## Care at Home

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- When you go home you may still be on frequent eye drops.
- You may need some help with your eye drops and with returning to your daily activities. If you have no family or friends available to assist you, let us know. We can help arrange home help and nursing if needed.
- Please see “Eye Surgery - Discharge Instructions” for information about cleaning and dressing your eye, medications and when to call your doctor.



# For Patients with an Infection Inside the Eye (Endophthalmitis)

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca> or email [pchem@vch.ca](mailto:pchem@vch.ca) and quote Catalogue No. **FH.650.Ey311**

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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.

[www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

## Introduction

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Your Doctor will have told you that your eye has a serious infection. In order to prevent this infection from getting worse and in an effort to save your sight the doctor will have ordered several treatments for you.

- 1) An intravenous line may be started to give antibiotics. These may be continued for several days.
- 2) Antibiotic eye drops will be given frequently. These may be as often as every  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour through the day and night. The antibiotic will fight the infection. The nurses and doctors will discuss using the drops with you.
- 3) You may also be seen by another doctor who specializes in infections.

## Activity and Rest

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- We ask you to stay in your room so as not to spread the infection, especially if your eye is draining.
- The doctor will have ordered a mild sleeping pill for you at night. We encourage you to use this especially if you have drops every  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour day and night. This will help you feel rested.
- The nurses have become expert at giving drops even when you are asleep!

## Medication

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- Your treatment will involve antibiotics, by intravenous, by mouth or by eye drops. Blood samples will be taken periodically to check the level of certain antibiotics in your blood. Antibiotics will be injected into the infected area of the eye.
- You may have some pain. The doctor will have ordered medicine for this. Please tell your nurse when you need it.
- You may have changes in your bowel habits. You may have constipation due to inactivity or have loose bowel movements which could be due to the antibiotics. If either of these occur please tell us so we can help you.

## Procedures & Operations

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- You may need a procedure or operation to determine the cause of the infection. This will help the doctors to decide how to treat your infected eye.
- An operation called a Vitrectomy may be required to remove the infected vitreous from your eye. Your doctor will explain this further if you need this operation. **Please ask questions.** It may help to write down your questions so you do not forget them.

