
Our vision: Is for Australians to be free of glaucoma blindness

iStent Inject W

The iStent Inject W is a tiny tube less than 1 mm in length made of surgical-grade titanium. The iStent Inject W is inserted into the natural drainage channel inside the eye, bypassing the blockage, allowing fluid to more easily drain out.

Two iStent Inject stents are typically inserted at the same time as cataract surgery to lower eye pressure and reduce the need for glaucoma medications.

What are the benefits?

The potential benefit is the lowering of intraocular pressure and possibly reducing the number of glaucoma eye drops without undergoing complex glaucoma surgery. Recovery is rapid. iStent Injects cannot be seen or felt. It is safe to have an MRI scan in most machines following this procedure.

Before the Procedure

Your doctor will provide you with specific instructions prior to the operation. You will usually be asked to continue with all your usual medications including your glaucoma eye drops even on the day of surgery. You will likely have a period of fasting immediately before the surgery but again your doctor will provide you with the specific details

During the procedure

Your eye will be anaesthetised with a local anaesthetic injection. The procedure itself is quick and usually only takes minutes to complete. iStent Inject W is delivered through a very small incision (2 mm) in the front of the eye and implanted into the drainage pathway.

The two stents are implanted in different areas to maximise outflow of fluid. If combined with cataract surgery, your surgeon may choose to implant the stents before or after cataract surgery.

After the procedure

The recovery from surgery is rapid and typically no longer than cataract surgery alone. Your surgeon will prescribe some antibiotics and anti-inflammatory eye drops to apply for up to one-month following the surgery. You may be able to stop some or all of your glaucoma eye drops. However, the effect of the iStent Inject can reduce over time and glaucoma eye drops may need to be resumed.

What are the risks?

The potential risks and complications associated with iStent Inject W are low. There is a small risk of bleeding inside the eye at the site of the stent implantation. The intraocular pressure may also increase temporarily following the procedure.

There is a small risk of poor positioning or dislodgment of the stents, and this may require a return to theatre for re-positioning, removal of stents, or re-insertion of stents. Because this is an intraocular procedure, there is the small risk of potential infection inside the eye.

Are there any alternatives?

The alternative treatment options are glaucoma eye drops, laser therapy, one of the other MIGS devices, or conventional glaucoma surgery. Your doctor will be able to explain each of these and whether they are suitable for you.

