



Agency photo. Model's image used. © Fancy/Veer/Corbis/Getty Images

# Frequently asked questions about VABYSMO®



# Dear patient,

In this compact brochure, we will answer the questions that are important to you about your treatment with VABYSMO®. Please always contact your treatment team if you have any questions about your disease and your treatment.



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## Questions about mechanism of action

# How does VABYSMO<sup>®</sup> work?

The active substance in VABYSMO<sup>®</sup> (faricimab) blocks two signalling pathways in the eye, which are deeply involved in the development or progression of nAMD or DMO: VEGF and Ang-2. By blocking these signalling pathways, the active ingredient reduces fluid leakage and the growth of diseased blood vessels in the eye.

## **What role do VEGF and Ang-2 play in nAMD and DMO?**

In nAMD and DMO, the signalling pathways VEGF and Ang-2 contribute to the formation of diseased blood vessels and/or damage to healthy vessels in the eye. As a result, fluid or blood can leak in the retinal area, which leads to swelling or damage to the retina. VABYSMO® can block VEGF and Ang-2 and prevent the growth of diseased vessels. The active ingredient can maintain or in some cases even improve visual acuity.

## Questions about the therapy

### **At what stage of the disease (nAMD/DMO) will I be given VABYSMO® injections?**

VABYSMO® is a long-term treatment that you can start at any time after being diagnosed with wet age-dependent macular degeneration (nAMD) or diabetic macular oedema (DMO). In the first four months of treatment, you will generally be given one injection per month. The interval can potentially be extended to once every 16 weeks. Your doctor will examine you regularly and adjust the interval between injections to your personal situation.

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### **Can the progression of my disease be slowed down through treatment with VABYSMO®?**

The medication can slow the progression of nAMD or DMO, thus maintaining or even improving visual acuity.



# For how long will I receive treatment?

VABYSMO® is a long-term treatment. Your doctor will monitor the status of your eyes regularly to check whether treatment shows the desired effect.

## **Can my ophthalmologist perform the check-ups or do I need to see a specialist?**

Please talk to your doctor about whether they can perform the check-ups or whether you will be referred to another practice for this.

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## **How many appointments for check-ups will I have?**

How frequently you have appointments for check-ups between injections depends on your personal situation and is at the discretion of your doctor. Monthly check-ups are not necessary.

**Do I have to be aware of anything if I take other medications regularly?  
Are there any potential interactions?**

Tell your doctor if you are taking/using, have recently taken/used or intend to take/use any other medications.

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**Can I get pregnant or breastfeed during treatment with VABYSMO®?**

You should not become pregnant or breastfeed while receiving VABYSMO® treatment. Talk to your doctor if you plan to get pregnant or suspect that you are already pregnant.

Women of childbearing potential must use a reliable method of contraception during treatment with VABYSMO® and for at least three months after the end of treatment. If you get pregnant or suspect that you are already pregnant during treatment with VABYSMO®, please inform your doctor immediately.

## Questions about the injection

# How often will I normally be given an injection? For DMO? For nAMD?

At the start of treatment, you will generally receive one injection per month for four months. The interval can potentially be extended to once every 16 weeks. Your doctor will examine you regularly and adjust the interval between injections to your personal situation.

## **Which part of the eye is VABYSMO® injected into?**

The medication is injected directly into the vitreous body of the eye with a thin needle. This means that the active ingredient gets exactly where it needs to go to do its job. The injection is performed under local anaesthetic in the eye, to prevent or reduce pain.

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## **Can my ophthalmologist give the injection or do I need to go to a specialist?**

VABYSMO® is injected by doctors who are experienced in administering eye injections. Your doctor may potentially refer you to a specialist practice for the injections.

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## **What do I do if I miss an injection?**

If you miss an appointment for an injection, arrange a new appointment with your doctor as soon as possible.

## Questions about available support

### Where can I seek advice about various issues such as social and legal issues?

Self-help groups and patient organisations are a good point of contact for questions about living and everyday life with the disease.

You can find additional information and contact details under **Gut beraten** on our website **[www.MeineAugenblicke.de](http://www.MeineAugenblicke.de)**.

Please note that the content of the website is currently available in German only. You can find further information about treatment for nAMD or DMO in the **My Therapy** login area of **[www.MeineAugenblicke.de](http://www.MeineAugenblicke.de)**.

# How can I talk to other people with the same condition as me?

In self-help groups, you can also talk to and network with other people with retinal diseases. Regional groups make it possible to meet in person. There are often advice and groups available for relatives as well, because talking to others in a similar situation can be helpful for them too.

▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring. This means any new safety information will be identified quickly. You can help by reporting any side effects you experience. Please report side effects to Roche Pharma AG at [grenzach.drug\\_safety@roche.com](mailto:grenzach.drug_safety@roche.com) or fax: +49 7624/14-3183 or to the Paul Ehrlich Institute at [www.pei.de](http://www.pei.de) or fax: +49 6103/77-1234.

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