

BEVACIZUMAB

BRAND NAME	AVASTIN, MVASI
DRUG CLASS	Non-cytotoxic antineoplastic, monoclonal antibody (humanised)
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 100 mg/4 mL or 400 mg/16 mL of bevacizumab. Also contains trehalose dihydrate, monobasic sodium phosphate, dibasic sodium phosphate and polysorbate-20. ¹ MVASI is a biosimilar product to AVASTIN. The solution is clear to slightly opalescent and colourless to pale yellow. ¹
WARNING	The occupational hazard of intermittent low dose exposure to bevacizumab is not known. Wear a mask and gloves when preparing the infusion or intravitreal solution to minimise exposure. Bevacizumab is not a cytotoxic.
pH	5.9-6.3 ²
PREPARATION	For IV infusion: dilute the dose in sodium chloride 0.9% to make a final concentration of 1.4–16.5 mg/mL. ¹ For intravitreal use (Avastin): must be prepared under aseptic conditions, preferably by pharmacy.
STABILITY	Vial: store at 2 to 8 °C. Protect from light. Do not shake. Do not freeze. ¹ When prepared by pharmacy under aseptic conditions: Infusion solution: stable for 48 hours at 2 to 30 °C. ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Has been studied in clinical trials.
IV injection	Not recommended ¹
IV infusion	Infuse the first dose over 90 minutes. If well tolerated, give the next infusion over 60 minutes. If well tolerated, give subsequent infusions over 30 minutes. ¹ Shorter infusion times have been used for second and subsequent infusions (of Avastin): for doses of 5 mg/kg and 7.5 mg/kg infuse over 10 minutes and for doses of 10 mg/kg infuse over 20 minutes. ³
Other	Suitable for intravitreal injection by an ophthalmologist. Very low doses are used and special preparation is required. ⁴ See SPECIAL NOTES
COMPATIBILITY	Sodium chloride 0.9% ¹
INCOMPATIBILITY	Glucose solutions ¹
SPECIAL NOTES	Mild to moderate hypersensitivity reactions including dyspnoea, flushing, hypotension and hypertension have been reported. If they occur, stop the infusion until symptoms subside. ¹ Serious cases of gastrointestinal perforation have been reported. ¹ Refer promptly if patient develops severe stomach pain. Severe eye infections and inflammation have been reported following the use of compounded bevacizumab intravitreal injections. ¹ All ophthalmic use of bevacizumab is off-label. Ranibizumab (Lucentis) is available as a commercially prepared injection approved for intravitreal use. ¹ Seek specialist advice.

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 19/07/2021.
2. Medical Information. Avastin (bevacizumab) and pH of drug [email]. Sydney, NSW: Roche Products Pty Ltd; 04/07/2019.
3. Clinical resource: Bevacizumab infusion times [v2. 2017]. eviQ [internet]. Sydney: Cancer Institute NSW. Available from www.eviq.org.au. Accessed 19/07/2021.
4. Bevacizumab. In: Ophthalmic pharmacopoeia [internet]. Sydney Eye Hospital. Available from www.pharmacopoeia.org.au. Accessed 19/07/2021.