

If you have any problems before you come back to clinic please ring:

Eye Clinic on 01744 646136

Mon – Fri. 9-00am – 5.00pm

or out of hours contact **0151 426 1600**
and ask for the eye doctor on call.

Any queries regarding your appointment ring:

01744 646130 / 01744 646131

Sanderson Suite: 01744 646089/ 646098

St Helens Hospital
Marshalls Cross Road,
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

www.MerseyWestLancs.nhs.uk

Temporal Artery Biopsy Patient Information Leaflet

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید، لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie, proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil, vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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Why do I need a Temporal Artery Biopsy and what are the benefits?

It is important to be able to confirm the diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis, and the best way to do this is a biopsy of the temporal artery.

Temporal arteritis (giant cell arteritis) is where the arteries, particularly those at the side of the head (the temples) become inflamed.

If the biopsy does not show any evidence of GCA, and the Doctor is satisfied that you do not have GCA, it may be possible to stop the steroid treatment (if applicable).

What is a Temporal Artery Biopsy?

A Temporal Artery Biopsy involves the surgical removal of a small piece of the temporal artery from the temple region. This is then sent to a pathologist to examine under a microscope. Temporal Artery Biopsy is not a treatment in itself.

- For a short time, there may be a small amount of pain after the anaesthetic wears off. Taking painkillers like paracetamol can help ease this pain. Always follow the instructions on the packet.
- Keep area dry for 3 – 4 days, unless advised differently.
- Any bleeding from the area, apply pressure with clean gauze for 10 minutes. If this does not stop or becomes excessive please seek medical advice.
- Avoid strenuous activity for a few weeks.
- Avoid putting your head in a drooped position to help reduce the risk of swelling and bleeding.
- The wound is about 3-4 cm long and usually absorbable sutures (stitches) are used. If you have stitches that need to be removed, these will be done at your follow up appointment. Otherwise the sutures will dissolve over the next few weeks.
- Post-operative infection which may appear as redness which progressively increases in size or a continuous wound discharge. If you have any concerns about this please contact the eye clinic or attend your nearest walk in/Urgent Care Centre.
- If you have been given ointment to use, please apply as instructed, please always wash your hands before treating your eyes.