

If you have any problems before you come back to clinic,  
please ring the Eye Clinic on:

01744 646 136  
Mon – Fri. 9-00am – 5.00pm

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

### Further information

<http://www.patient.co.uk/>

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/index.asp>

<http://www.patientsupport.org/uk/>

### Sanderson Suite

01744 646 089 / 646 / 098

Whiston Hospital  
Warrington Road,  
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR  
Telephone: 0151 426 1600

St Helens Hospital  
Marshall Cross Road,  
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA  
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St Helens and Knowsley  
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## Temporal Artery Biopsy Surgery

### Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

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## Temporal Artery Biopsy

### 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 will be possible to stop the steroid treatment.

### 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. This is usually performed under local anaesthetic (an injection around the area).

Your nurse today is.....

You will be sent a follow up appointment in the post, if required.

## Post Operative Instructions

- 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.
- Keep area dry for 3 – 4 days, then you may carefully wash your hair if you wish.
- Any bleeding from the area, apply pressure with clean gauze for 10 minutes. If this doesn't stop or becomes excessive, please seek medical advice.
- The wound is about 3-4 cm long and usually absorbable sutures (stitches) are used.
- 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 seek medical advice.
- If you have been given ointment to use, please apply as instructed, please always wash your hands before treating your eyes.