

## Temporal Artery Biopsy Information Sheet

Your doctor suspects that you have a condition known as Temporal Arteritis which is inflammation in the blood vessels. It most commonly occurs in the head however the condition can be body-wide, affecting many medium to large sized arteries anywhere in the body.

The goal of treatment is to reduce tissue damage that may occur due to lack of blood flow. Your doctor will prescribe steroids to reduce the inflammation.

Possible complications if the condition is not treated promptly include vision loss, damage to other blood vessels in the body and TIA or Stroke.

A Temporal Artery Biopsy is when the surgeon removes a very small piece of tissue from an artery in your forehead for examination under microscope. The area is numbed with local anaesthetic and the operation will take approximately 1 hour. Expect to be in the department for up to 3 hours. During the operation you should keep your head still and lie as flat as possible. You will be accompanied to and from the theatre, and your hand will be held by a nurse during the operation to make sure that you are all right.

If you are allergic to latex gloves or other latex products, please advise the Nelson Day Unit on 01603 288114 before your operation date.

### Day of Operation

Dear .....

**A date has been arranged for you to come into hospital to have your eye operation**  
**in the ..... Level 2, West Block**  
**on .....**

- Please do not drive to your surgery appointment and if possible please get someone to accompany you.
- Please bring with you your current glasses and a list of current medications.
- You may eat and drink as normal prior to your surgery.
- You can take any medications as normal (unless instructed otherwise).
- Do not bring in money, valuables or jewellery (other than a wedding ring).

## **After your Operation**

- You may have some discomfort when you get home. If you feel that you need painkillers, a mild one should be sufficient.
- Rest on the day of your operation and for the following few days to allow healing. Do not bend or lift anything heavy for 3 days afterwards.
- You will need to continue taking your steroid dose as advised.
- The wound is approximately 2-4cms long and will be covered with a dressing ,the doctor/nurse will let you know when this can be removed.
- You will most likely have stitches which will fall off or dissolve without needing to be removed.
- Your doctor will inform you if the stitches need removing by your GP 7-10 days after surgery.
- You will have a follow-up appointment at the hospital by requesting doctor about 2 weeks after the procedure for the results of the biopsy and further management.
- You may be given antibiotic ointment to apply to the wound.

**If you have any post-operative bleeding, swelling or discharge please ring:**

Nelson Day Unit - 01603 288038 Monday – Friday 08.00-17.00

At all other times please ring 01603 286286 and ask the switchboard to contact the OPHTHALMIC (EYE) DOCTOR ON CALL.

If you need to contact us following your operation, we will need to know the date and type of operation you have had and your hospital number.