



Giant Cell Arteritis

The referral process has changed:

To refer to **Rheumatology** for GCA please **complete the proforma** available on **the intranet** and **email to:**

cah-tr.rheumatologysecretaries@nhs.net

If three of these five criteria are present:

1. Age at disease onset 50 years or over
2. New headache
3. Temporal artery abnormality
4. Elevated ESR > 50 mm/hr
5. Abnormal artery biopsy

Refer for GCA

Treatment for this condition is **time critical** and if not treated appropriately can cause:

Sudden irreversible visual loss

Development of thoracic aortic aneurysm

Please note if there are any visual disturbance you need to refer to Rheumatology **AND** discuss with Ophthalmology