Giant Cell Arteritis- Primary Care Referral Pathway

Suspected GCA

Age >50 years
Recent onset temporal headache
Scalp tenderness
Visual symptoms
Jaw claudication
Polymyalgia rheumatica

Treatments:

Start PREDNISOLONE- (after urgent bloods)

Any degree of new visual symptoms- 60mg Prednisolone,

urgent referral to ophthalmology:

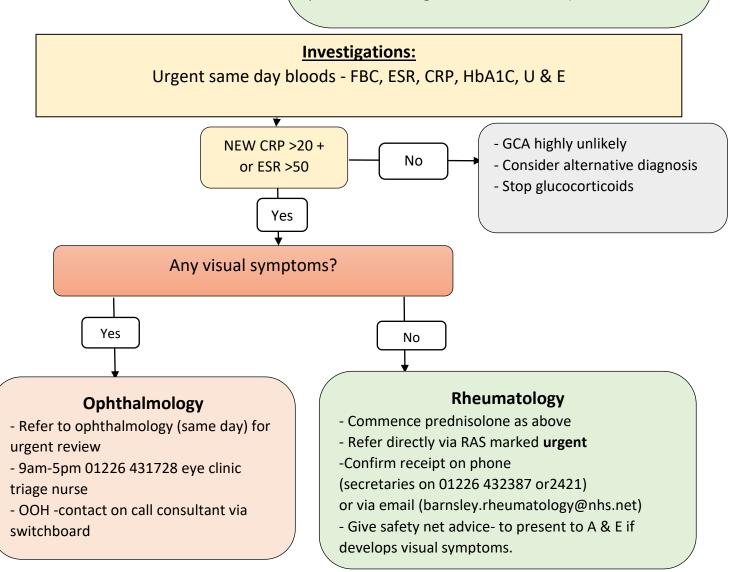
[9am-5pm 01226 431728 eye clinic triage nurse]

[OOH -contact on call consultant via switchboard]

No visual symptoms- 40mg-60mg prednisolone OD

All- gastric protection - Commence PPI

All- commence calcium /vitamin D supplementation (Rheumatology department will manage other bone protection investigations and treatment)



A clinical response to steroids is expected in the first few days of steroid therapy. Inflammatory markers may take up to a month to normalise.