

Ophthalmology

Ocular Lesions Requiring Referral to an Ocular Oncology Centre

Introduction

This leaflet explains why you have been referred to the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre.

Your Eye Specialist has found a lesion (a change from normal) in your eye. In most cases this will be benign (non-cancerous) but as there is a small chance that it may be malignant (cancerous), you are being referred to the Ocular Centre for a second opinion.

We hope that this information will reassure you about your visit and give you an outline of what will happen during your visit. You will also receive further more detailed information from the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre.

Why do I need to attend an oncology centre?

Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular tumours.

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) works in close collaboration with this Centre. UHCW refers patients to the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre in order to obtain a second opinion and ensure that you have an accurate diagnosis. In this way, we hope to ensure that you receive the most appropriate care.



What happens next?

The Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre will aim to see you within **one month** of receipt of your referral. They will then send you:

- A guide with further information.
- Details of your appointment time and place.
- A questionnaire to confirm that details regarding your name, date of birth, address and general practitioner are all correct.
- A request for permission to use your data and any images for research, teaching and quality control studies.

If you do not receive this information within two weeks, then please contact the Eye Casualty (Clinic 9) at University Hospital Coventry (UHCW), before 12 noon.

If you live too far from Liverpool to travel on the same day, the Ocular Oncology Centre can arrange accommodation at a local hotel for the night prior to your appointment (one room free of charge for NHS referrals).

At your first visit to the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre, you will be seen by:

A Nurse, who will:

- Measure your vision with a letter chart
- Measure your eye pressure
- Test your pupils with a torch
- Ask about your general health
- Instil drops into your eyes to enable examination of the back of the eyes

Surgical Trainee or Fellow, who will:

- Ask about how and when you first became aware of your ocular condition
- Ask about your general health
- Review your health questionnaire
- Examine your eyes

Patient Information

Photographers, who will:

- Take photographs of the back of your eyes. This makes it easier to compare the lesion's appearance over time and recognise growth/regression

Consultant, who will:

- Review your referral letter and notes
- Examine your eyes
- Perform an ultrasound scan on your eyes to help diagnosis
- Explain to you as much as possible about your condition
- Plan any future care with you

A Nurse, who will:

- Answer any final questions or concerns that you might have

If the lesion is considered to be benign and does not require treatment, you will be discharged from Liverpool. You will be sent back to your consultant ophthalmologist at your home hospital.

If you need treatment, all the options will be discussed with you, together with treatment schedules, possible side effects and likely outcomes.

If I do have a malignant lesion, will it grow significantly by the time I attend the Liverpool Oncology Clinic?

If the tumour is a melanoma (a rare tumour, but the most common kind of tumour that occurs in the eye), it is very unlikely to change significantly within a few weeks. So, a delay of approximately a month should not alter your chances of survival or of saving your eye and vision.

In addition, the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre will review each case on an individual basis to ensure that everyone is seen within an appropriate timeframe.

Useful Information

Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre

Website: www.looc.uk.com

Telephone: 0151 7063973 (admin/appointments)

Telephone: 0151 7063976 (medical queries)

Consultant / Clinical Lead: Professor Heinrich Heimann, MD, FRCOphth

Please be reassured that Liverpool Ocular Oncology Centre will be sending out a guide with further information which will hopefully answer any further questions you may have.

Macmillan Cancer Support:

Helpline: 0808 808 00 00 **Website:** www.macmillan.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre, UHCW NHS Trust

Telephone: 024 7696 6052

UHCW Eye Casualty, Clinic 9 Telephone: 024 7696 6627

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 6494 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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