



The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Clinical Guideline

Referral pathways for adult ocular tumours

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1 Introduction

In 1997 Liverpool, London and Sheffield were designated as Centres of Excellence for adult ocular oncology in England by the National Commissioning Group (formerly the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group). The National Services Division in Scotland similarly designate a service for Scotland at North Glasgow University Hospital.

These guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive but to act as an aid to considering referral of patients to the nationally designated ocular oncology centres. Referring ophthalmologists should continue to exercise discretion based on the individual clinical presentations of individual patients.

2 Whom to refer to the service

2.1 Patients with intraocular tumours

- Any primary intraocular tumour other than naevus
- Any intraocular metastatic tumour if specialist ocular oncology is required
- Suspected intraocular lymphoma.

2.2 Patients with conjunctival and epibulbar tumours

2.3 Refer patient with conjunctival melanocytic tumour if:

- Cornea, caruncle, and/or palpebral conjunctiva is/are involved
- Feeder vessels are present
- Nodule is associated with diffuse pigmentation
- Diameter exceeds 3 mm, especially in absence of clear cysts.

2.4 Patients with a suspicious melanocytic choroidal tumour having:

(A) Any one of the following:

- Thickness greater than 2.0 mm
- Collar-stud configuration
- Documented growth

OR

(B) Any two of the following:

- Thickness > 1.5mm
- Orange pigment
- Serous retinal detachment
- Symptoms

2.5 Refer patient with an iris nodule with any of the following:

- Tumour is more than 3.0 mm in diameter
- Tumour is markedly elevated
- Secondary glaucoma or cataract
- Tumour involves angle

3 Whom not to refer

- Congenital hypertrophy of retinal pigment epithelium
- Simple naevi, if:
 - (A) small and flat, or
 - (B) minimally raised with only drusen on the surface
- Eyelid tumours
- Orbital tumours [Note: Scottish patients with eyelid and orbital tumours can be referred to the Scottish service].

4 Retinoblastoma

Children with suspected retinoblastoma should be referred to the nationally designated retinoblastoma services in London or Birmingham.

5 How to refer

Please send a fax and letter with the following:

- Name, date of birth
- Address, telephone number (including mobile number if appropriate)
- GP name, address and fax
- Relevant ocular and systemic details
- Results of any recent blood tests or scans – please do not carry out conjunctival biopsies and never delay a referral because of any investigations
- An old photograph, if tumour growth suspected and if available
- Special needs and preferences

The NHS Cancer Plan (England) specifies that referrals for possible cancer should reach the specialist hospital within 24 hours of the decision to refer.

Please give the patient a number to phone if an appointment letter is not received within two weeks. All ophthalmologists can refer patients to any centre. Referrals of patients from Scotland to centres other than Glasgow will be on the basis of exceptional circumstances only and will require prior approval from National Services Division NHS Scotland.

6 Ocular Oncology Service Contact Details

6.1 Ocular Oncology Service Contact Details Team in Liverpool

Professor Heinrich Heimann Miss Rumana Hussain

Referrals to: Ocular Oncology Service
8Z Link
St Paul's Eye Unit
Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Prescot Street
Liverpool L7 8XP

T. 0151 7063973
F. 0151 706 5436
E. Jenny.Burke@rlbuht.nhs.uk

6.2 Ocular Oncology Team in London

Miss Victoria Cohen Mr Mandeep Sagoo

Referrals to: Ocular Oncology Service
Moorfields Eye Hospital
162 City Road
London
EC1 2PV
E: meh-tr.ocularoncology@nhs.net
F: 0207 566 2073

6.3 Ocular Oncology Team in Sheffield

Mr Sachin Salvi Professor I.G. Rennie Mr Paul Rundle

Referrals to: Ocular Oncology Service
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Glossop Road
Sheffield
S10 2JF

E: sht-tr.cancer-ocularoncology@nhs.net
F: 0114 271 2530

For any referral enquiries please contact:
Mr Robert Fowler Ocular Oncology Service Co-ordinator on 0114 305 6487

6.4 Ocular Oncology Team in Glasgow

Mr Paul Cauchi

Mr Vikas Chadha

Referrals to:

Susan Ewan
Service Administrator
Ocular Oncology Service
Gartnavel General Hospital
1053 Great Western Rd
Glasgow G12 0YN

E: susan.ewan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

F: 0141 211 3223

Alternatively, you can telephone the Ocular Oncology Service on 0141 211 2934

7 Author

This service guidance was written by the National Ocular Oncology Group which is nationally commissioned by NHS England and NHS Scotland.