

Information for Patients

Optometric Led Glaucoma Clinic (OLGA)

What is the OLGA Clinic?

OLGA Clinic stands for **O**ptometric **L**ed **G**laucoma **A**ssessment clinic. In this clinic, an optometrist with special training in glaucoma sees all the patients. The patients attending this clinic have 'ocular hypertension' (high pressure in their eyes) or 'glaucoma'. Glaucoma is a common eye condition where the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, becomes damaged. It is usually caused by fluid building up in the front part of the eye, which increases pressure inside the eye. Glaucoma can lead to loss of vision if it isn't diagnosed and treated early.

Your consultant has asked for you to be seen in the OLGA clinic because you have either 'ocular hypertension' or 'glaucoma' and your eye condition is stable. Our specially trained optometrist can now closely monitor you.

What is the benefit of the OLGA clinic?

The OLGA clinic aims to improve the out-patient experience by allowing all the necessary tests to be performed at one visit by a dedicated team of specially trained professionals. The OLGA clinic also aims to reduce your waiting time in the out-patients department and to reduce the risk of your clinic appointment being cancelled.

What will happen when I attend the OLGA clinic?

The optometrist will check with you what drops you are using and whether you have had any problems since your last visit. The optometrist will examine your eyes and check the pressure in your eyes in the usual way. You will have a field of vision test and photographs taken of the nerve at the back of your eye at the same visit.

These are painless procedures. You should use all your drops as usual when you come to the OLGA clinic.

Will I have any other drops in my eyes when I come to the OLGA clinic?

Yes. You will have anaesthetic drops that numb your eye, put in before you have your eye pressure checked. You will also have drops put in to dilate your pupils so that the inside of your eyes can be examined and so that a photograph can be taken of the nerve at the back of your eye. These drops may blur your vision for approximately 3 hours and make your eyes more sensitive to bright lights. For this reason, we advise you **not to drive** to and from your OLGA clinic appointment.

You may also wish to bring a pair of sunglasses to help reduce glare, particularly on a sunny day.

What should I bring to the OLGA clinic?

Please bring your spectacles and a list of all your medications and any remedies or other over the counter products that you take.

What happens if I have a problem when I attend the OLGA clinic?

You will remain under the care of your consultant even though you are being monitored in the OLGA clinic. If you have a problem with your eye condition at your appointment, our optometrist may be able to help. If necessary, the optometrist will arrange for you to be seen by one of the doctors, and may arrange for you to be seen in the consultant's clinic again.

If you have any further questions, please discuss these with your consultant or contact the team co-ordinator on (0161) 276 5533 Monday - Thursday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm and Friday 8.30 am - 4.00 pm.