

Diagnosing Eye Cancer - A Quick Guide



Contents

This is a brief summary of the information on 'Diagnosing eye cancer' from CancerHelp UK. You will find more detailed information on the website.

In this information there are sections on

- Eye cancer tests
- What to ask your doctor

Eye cancer tests

A doctor who specialises in diseases of the eye (ophthalmologist) will examine your eyes to start with.

Diagnosing eye melanoma

If your ophthalmologist suspects you have an eye melanoma, they will refer you to a specialist centre for eye cancer. You will have various eye examinations there. You may have a test called a fluorescein angiogram. This means looking at blood vessels using a type of dye. You have an injection of the dye into your arm. It travels through your bloodstream to the blood vessels of the eye where it shows up on photographs. You will usually also have an ultrasound scan of your eye. You may have blood tests to check your general health.

Diagnosing lymphoma of the eye

Your doctor will look at the jelly like substance (vitreous fluid) that fills most of the inside of your eye to see if it is cloudy. You may have a biopsy of the eye. Your specialist will use a fine needle to remove a sample of the vitreous fluid from inside your eye. The sample is sent to the lab to be looked at. The biopsy is a quick and simple test done under local or general anaesthetic.

Your doctor may also want you to have a lumbar puncture, a bone marrow test, an ultrasound or MRI scan.

What to ask your doctor about diagnosing eye cancer

- What tests are you going to do?
- What will you be looking for in these tests?
- Will the tests show if I have eye cancer?
- How urgent are the tests?
- Will you know what treatment I will need when you have the results?
- Will any of the tests be painful?
- Do any of the tests have after effects?
- Can I have these tests as an outpatient?
- Should I bring someone with me when I have these tests?



- How long will I have to wait for the results?
- Who will give me the test results?

Notes

More information

For more information about eye cancer, visit our website
<http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org>

You will find a wide range of detailed, up to date information for people affected by cancer, including a clinical trials database that you can search for cancer trials in the UK. You can view or print the information in a larger size if you need to.

For answers to your questions about cancer call our Cancer Information Nurses on **0808 800 4040** 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday

Adapted from Cancer Research UK's Patient Information Website CancerHelp UK in January 2012. CancerHelp UK is not designed to provide medical advice or professional services and is intended to be for educational use only. The information provided through CancerHelp UK and our nurse team is not a substitute for professional care and should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. If you have, or suspect you may have, a health problem you should consult your doctor. © Cancer Research UK 2012. Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464) and in Scotland (SC041666).