



Effective Health Care

Temporal Arteritis Diagnosis and Treatment

Next Steps

The nominator is interested in information about diagnosis and treatment of temporal arteritis. While this is an important concern, it is outside the purview of the Effective Health Care Program to provide personal medical advice about treatment.

Summary

Topic Name and Number: Temporal Arteritis Diagnosis and Treatment, #782

Nomination Date: 5/25/2018

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- Temporal arteritis causes the arteries of the scalp to become red, swollen or painful. Without prompt treatment, arteries could be permanently damaged and lead to blindness or stroke [1].
- To make the diagnosis the American College of Rheumatology requires that three of the following criteria be present: [2]
 - Age greater than or equal to 50
 - New headaches
 - Temporal artery abnormality such as tenderness of the artery or decreased pulsation
 - ESR greater than or equal to 50 mm/h
 - Abnormal artery biopsy
- It is outside the purview of the EHC Program to provide personal medical advice.

References

1. *Giant Cell Arteritis*. [cited 7 June 2018]; Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMHT0025317/>.
2. Hunder, G.G., et al., *The American College of Rheumatology 1990 criteria for the classification of giant cell arteritis*. *Arthritis Rheum*, 1990. **33**(8): p. 1122-8.