

Reference:	FOI.16454.25
Subject:	Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)
Date of Request:	27 January 2025

Requested:

1. For each of your hospitals that treat adults and have at least one of the following departments, please can you advise whether they have access to ultrasound and or temporal artery biopsy to diagnose or confirm diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis?
 - a. Accident & Emergency / Urgent Treatment Centre
 - b. Rheumatology Department
 - c. Ophthalmology Department

Response:

- 1a. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that its Accident and Emergency (A&E) and Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Departments do not have access to GCA ultrasound or temporal artery biopsy.
- 1b. The UHB confirms that the Rheumatology Department does have access to GCA ultrasound for temporal artery and axillary artery on all UHB sites. However, the Rheumatology Department currently does not have access to temporal artery biopsy, except for rare cases with eye involvement when ultrasound is inconclusive.
- 1c. The UHB confirms that the Ophthalmology Department does not have access to GCA ultrasound. Temporal artery biopsy is considered within the Ophthalmology Department on an individual patient basis by its Oculoplastic surgeon, following a request from Rheumatologists.