

# Tocilizumab for treating giant cell arteritis

Information for the public

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Tocilizumab (RoActemra) is available on the NHS as a possible treatment for giant cell arteritis in adults if:

- they have relapsing or refractory disease
- they have not already had tocilizumab
- tocilizumab is only given for 1 year at most.

If you are not eligible for tocilizumab but are already taking it, you should be able to continue until you and your doctor decide when best to stop.

## Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

## Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other treatments?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day life?
- What happens if the treatment does not work?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment? Are there other treatments available?

## Information and support

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis UK \(PMRGCAuk\)](#), 0300 111 5090
- [Vasculitis UK](#), 0300 365 0075

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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