



UK's NICE GIVE GREEN LIGHT TO RITUXIMAB



NICE has issued new Guidelines approving the use in the NHS of rituximab (MabThera) in treating the two most common types of ANCA vasculitis.

Vasculitis UK has been very actively campaigning for this for over a year.

In a statement, Vasculitis UK chairman John Mills said: "This will be good news for many patients living with ANCA vasculitis. It has been a hard fought battle. We have achieved most of our objectives and are so pleased to have been able to have a major influence this decision by getting the committee to understand the importance of this new drug for patients.

We are grateful to those patients who let us share their experiences of rituximab. These experiences formed a significant and influential part of our submission to NICE. We are also grateful to the leading vasculitis doctors who supported the campaign with their medical evidence. This is a perfect example of what can be achieved by medical professionals and patients working together in partnership".

To see the extended report from Vasculitis UK about the full implications of the NICE approval visit: [V-UK and Rituximab](#)



CORTISONE-INFO - A website dedicated to cortisone and corticosteroid therapies

Corticosteroids (steroids) are widely prescribed worldwide. It is estimated that, at any point of time, about 1 per cent of the general population is receiving oral corticosteroids.

A new, in depth, website is now available with the aims of helping patients and their families by publishing practical information about corticosteroids and corticosteroid therapies.

The website, in English, was entirely created by the Department of Internal Medicine of Saint-Antoine hospital (Paris, France), it received the HONcode label in 2012. You will find the link to the site at: [Cortisone-info](#)

Vasculitis Support Group Meetings

Lancashire/North West VSG - 9th March

Oxfordshire VSG Spring Seminar - 23rd March

South Wales VSG - 12th July

For full details of the above please visit our website [Events](#)

Fundraisers for Vasculitis UK

The number of people who continue to fundraise for V-UK continues. You can read their stories at: [V-UK Fundraisers](#)

In the next two months there's:

- * The Concert for V-UK in Swindon,
- * Lucy & Phoebe's Half Marathon,
- * The fantastic 5's Cambridge Marathon,
- * Andrew's "Rock Solid", and
- * Anita's Carlisle Duathlon.

Events later in the year can also be viewed on the website.

Takayasu Arteritis

The Vasculitis UK website now has a completely new and indepth entry for Takayasu Arteritis courtesy of Professor Justin Mason of Hammersmith Hospital.

The Takayasu page contains invaluable information for patients and others interested in this vasculitis disease.

To view the website page visit: [Takayasu Arteritis](#)

New research reveals more about Giant Cell Arteritis

New research has revealed how

SHARING YOUR PATIENT RECORD helps saves lives and assists research



The NHS is creating a new system to share information from patient records to improve care and research, while protecting each person's confidentiality. Everybody in England can choose how information from their patient record is shared in this new system.

More than 40 medical research charities and organisations have joined together to tell you more about how your information can be used for medical research and help you find out more about how your information will be kept safe.

Why not read the full details at: [Sharing patient records](#)

Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) may be caused by a certain group of white blood cells called "neutrophils".

GCA (also known as Temporal Arteritis TA) is a condition which causes inflammation in the blood vessels and primarily affects the elderly.

Read the full story at: [GCA Research](#)

BMJ - New Patient Partnership Strategy

The British Medical Journal is setting up an innovative scheme whereby patients and patient advocates review articles written by researchers, doctors and nurses.

Read about this scheme at: [Linkedin BMJ](#) and [BMJ Patient Reviewers](#)

Vasculitis UK

Supporting patients with vasculitis, helping raise awareness, and funding vasculitis research in the UK since 1992

Reg Charity No.1019983



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