

Hydroxychloroquine – updated communication

Asymptomatic Patients taking hydroxychloroquine:

1. Whose sight test is up to date:

The GP should advise the patient to contact their original optometrist to obtain their **visual acuity** and the patient should take this to their GP as a baseline measurement.

2. Whose sight test is due or who have never had a sight test:

The patient will be advised to book an appointment for a **normal sight test** with an Optometrist either under GOS or privately, and the patient will request their **visual acuity** is sent to their GP.

Symptomatic Patients taking hydroxychloroquine:

Patients with symptoms which might suggest hydroxychloroquine retinopathy (slow reduction in central vision or reduced colour vision) should:-

1. Have the hydroxychloroquine stopped immediately
- 2. Be referred urgently to OUH /RBH Ophthalmology for review**

NB A routine sight test does not include 10-2 threshold visual fields, OCT scan of the macula and Fundus Autofluorescence imaging required for screening of **high risk** pts on this medication.

Therefore an optometry eye test is not a substitute for the medical retina screening in accordance with the Royal College of Ophthalmologist's guideline. However, at present patients can be seen privately for these tests at specific Optometrist practices who have the relevant equipment.

The CCG are working on setting up a system for the regular accredited screening of 'high risk' patients on this drug and more information will follow shortly.

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20 August 2019