

**Double vision.** This is caused because your eyes no longer move and work together. The type and severity of the double vision will vary between people. Patching or blurring one eye can be useful to improve double vision.

### **Using Prisms to correct double vision**

Prisms bend light to move the displaced images closer together so can sometimes be used to join double vision back to single.

Prisms come in different strengths and the Orthoptist will assess which is the best one for you.

Initially you will be given a temporary prism which will be stuck onto your own glasses or a plain pair of glasses from the hospital. Long term some prisms can be incorporated into your glasses lens if they are still required.

If you have any questions concerning your vision please speak to your Orthoptist or a member of the Healthcare Team that has been caring for you.

### **Contact Details**

**Eye Unit**

**Tel: 01782 676001**

**Orthoptic Department**

**option 5**

**Emergency Eye Department**

**option 1**

[www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoptics](http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/our-services/orthoptics)

## **Eye Condition Patient Information Leaflet**

# **Myasthenia Gravis**



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

## Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information on Myasthenia Gravis (MG). It is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your Doctor/Healthcare Professional but may act as a starting point for discussion.

If after reading it you have any concerns or require further explanation, please discuss this with a member of the Healthcare Team who has been caring for you.

## What is Myasthenia Gravis (MG)?

- Myasthenia Gravis (MG) is a condition which causes muscles to fatigue or tire quickly, caused by antibodies reducing the signal between nerves and muscles. As the signal is not getting to the muscles they become weak and easily tired.
- Sometimes it only affects the eye muscles (Ocular MG), or it can affect other skeletal muscles in the body (Generalised MG). If MG is generalised it can lead to weakness of limbs, problems swallowing, speaking or breathing.
- It is typical for symptoms to be variable and worse after using the muscles or when you are tired.

## How can Myasthenia Gravis affect my eyes?

Typically MG leads to droopy eyelids or double vision due to weak eye movement muscles.

## Will it get better?

With treatment the symptoms of MG can be improved.

## Will I need more tests?

The blood test may show if antibodies are present. Some people who do have MG have normal blood results.

An ice pack can be used to see if the muscle function improves when cold. This is typical of MG.

Sometimes an injection is given to see if muscle function improves temporarily and also suggests you have MG.

Tests that measure electrical activity in muscles may also be required.

It is necessary for some patients to have scans if the diagnosis of MG is not clear.

## What are the treatment options?

- A Neurologist will consider treating MG with Pyridostigmine which is a drug that increases the substance that carries the nerve signal to the muscle (called acetylcholine). This can balance out the effect of the antibodies and reduce muscle fatigue.
- Alternatively immunosuppressant drugs may be used to reduce antibody production.
- Surgically remove the thymus gland to reduce any antibodies.

## Treatment for conditions caused by MG

**Droopy eyelid.** You may choose to leave it covering one eye as it can eliminate any double vision.