Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a debilitating condition caused by inflammation of large and medium-sized arteries.¹

Common symptoms of GCA include:²
- Severe headaches, scalp tenderness, jaw pain and visual symptoms that can lead to blindness, aneurysm or stroke if untreated.

GCA affects adults over 50 years old.²

The exact cause of GCA is unknown.³ GCA is often difficult to diagnose due to the variable spectrum of symptoms. This can result in delayed or incorrect diagnosis.

At least twice as many women are affected by GCA as men.⁴

There have been no new treatments for GCA in more than 50 years.

Treatment to date has been limited to high-dose long duration steroids...

...that commonly cause severe side effects such as diabetes, osteoporosis, fractures, infection, high blood pressure, cataracts and weight gain.⁵

Recent studies have shown that blocking IL-6 signalling could reduce the inflammation of blood vessels in GCA.⁶

Benefits
- Low risk of severe headaches
- Scalp tenderness
- Jaw pain
- Visual symptoms

Side effects
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis
- Fractures
- Infection
- High blood pressure
- Cataracts
- Weight gain

References