Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a debilitating condition caused by inflammation of large and medium-sized arteries. At least twice as many women are affected by GCA as men. GCA affects adults over 50 years old. The exact cause of GCA is unknown. GCA is often difficult to diagnose due to the variable spectrum of symptoms. This can result in delayed or incorrect diagnosis. Common symptoms of GCA include: severe headaches, scalp tenderness, jaw pain and visual symptoms that can lead to blindness, antral aneurysm or stroke if untreated.

Benefits
- Relief of inflammation
- Improvement in vision
- Decrease in pain
- Improvement in mobility

Side effects
- Severe headaches, scalp tenderness, jaw pain and visual symptoms
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis, fractures, infection
- High blood pressure, cataracts and weight gain

STEROID USE

HIGH-DOSE STEROIDS are often used to treat GCA, however...

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

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