


TIA

TRANSIENT ISCHAEMIC ATTACKS
(TIA) AND THE EYE



You have been given
an urgent referral
for suspected TIA.
It is **CRITICAL** that
you follow up
your referral and
medication.



Please see more details about
TIA on the otherside of this
brochure

WHAT IS A TIA?

A transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is a brief loss of oxygen to one particular part of the brain. Because the problem is temporary, the neurological symptoms caused by the loss of oxygen resolve spontaneously.

TIAs are warnings of possible serious problems involving the brain's blood supply, and are also known as 'mini strokes' – therefore URGENT investigations and review by a stroke physician are needed.

The eye has the same blood supply as the brain. Therefore, temporary loss of vision (like a curtain being pulled over the sight) in one eye may sometimes be due to a TIA. Other visual symptoms of TIAs include loss of part of the vision in both eyes or double vision.

The most common cause of loss of oxygen to a part of the brain is narrowing of a major blood vessel in the neck, known as carotid artery disease. Other causes of a TIA include irregularities of heart rhythm or a tear in the lining of a blood vessel. All of these conditions can be life-threatening. It is vital that you be assessed and treated for these conditions before they cause a permanent stroke.

If you have been identified as **high risk** for a stroke, you should be assessed **urgently by a neurologist** to facilitate rapid management. If you have been identified as **low risk**, your ophthalmologist or GP should commence initial therapy and refer you to a specialist TIA clinic to be **seen within seven days**.

WHAT ARE THE NON-VISUAL SYMPTOMS OF STROKE OR TIA?

- Symptoms are usually sudden in onset, but patients can sometimes wake with them
- Weakness, numbness, or tingling sensation on one side of your face or body
- Difficulty speaking clearly
- Trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination.

If you have recurrent visual symptoms or any of the above symptoms, you must present **immediately** to an emergency department for a more urgent stroke work-up.

Stroke is preventable if the underlying cause is found and treated early.

For reliable information of the internet search for:



- Stroke Foundation Australia **TIA**
- NICE guidelines for **TIA**
- Harvard medical center patient information **TIA**
- American Academy of Neurology **TIA**

PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS: