Symptoms

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Multimedia

Image showing inflamed temple arteries in giant cell arteritis

Giant cell arteritis

The most common symptoms of giant cell arteritis are head pain and tenderness — often severe — that usually affects both temples. The onset of the condition can feel like the flu.

Generally, signs and symptoms of giant cell arteritis include:

Persistent, severe head pain, usually in your temple area

Scalp tenderness

Jaw pain when you chew or open your mouth wide

Fever

Fatigue

Unintended weight loss

Vision loss or double vision, particularly in people who also have jaw pain

Sudden, permanent loss of vision in one eye

Pain and stiffness in the neck, shoulders or hips are common symptoms of a related disorder, polymyalgia rheumatica. About 50 percent of people with giant cell arteritis also have polymyalgia rheumatica.