

Optic Neuropathy

Lots of ways to divvy these up...



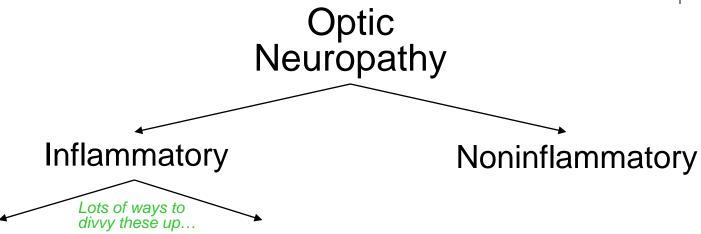
Optic Neuropathy

Inflammatory

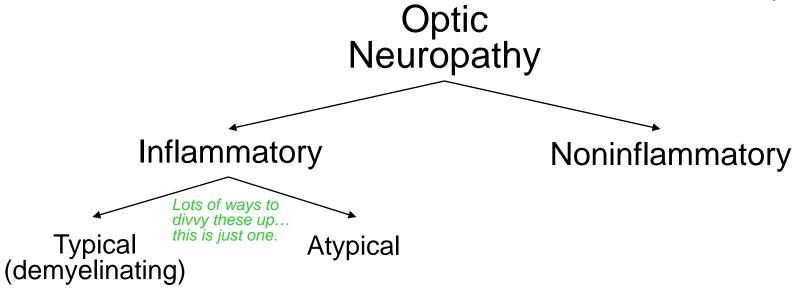
Lots of ways to divvy these up... this is just one.

Noninflammatory

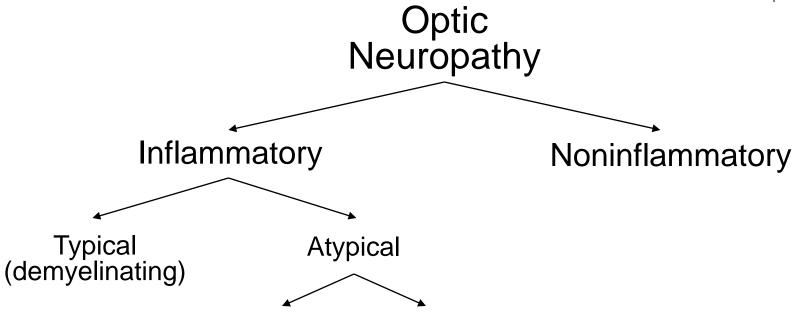




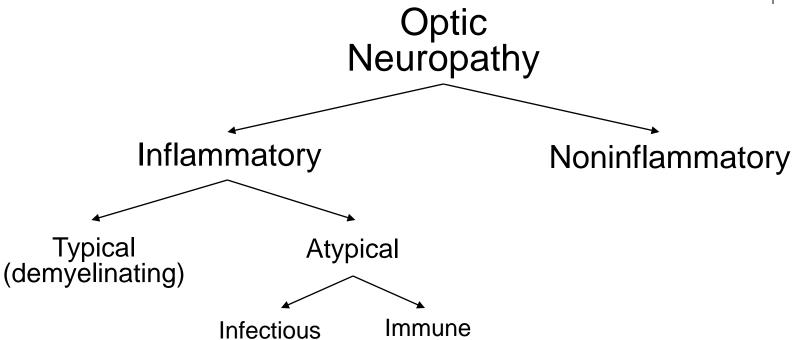




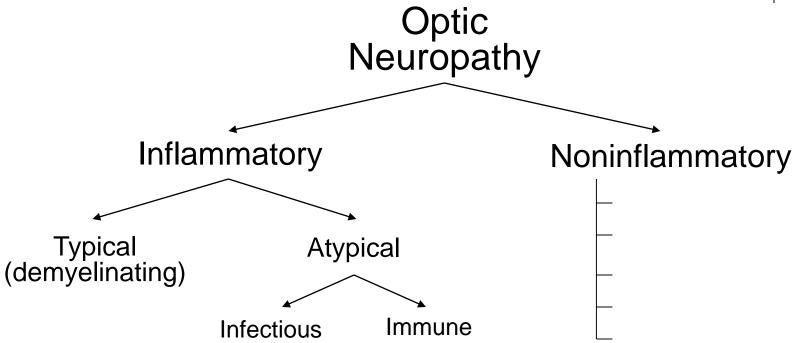




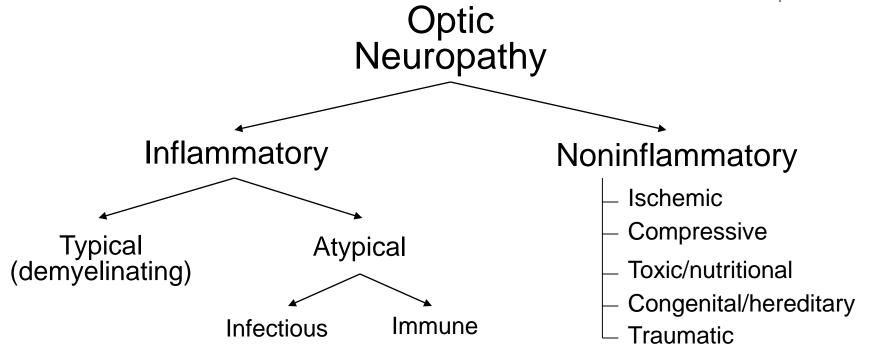




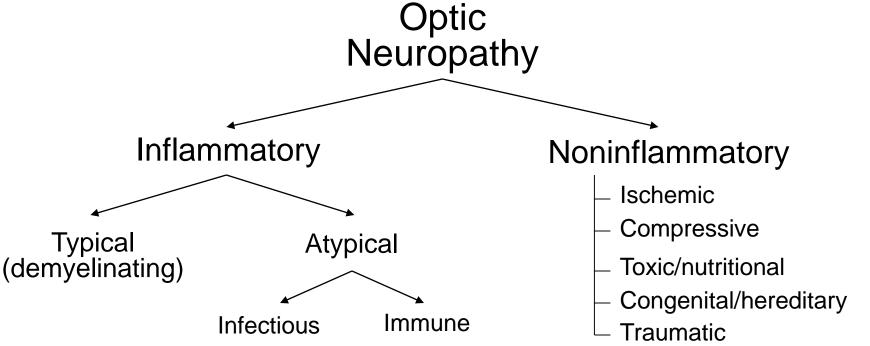






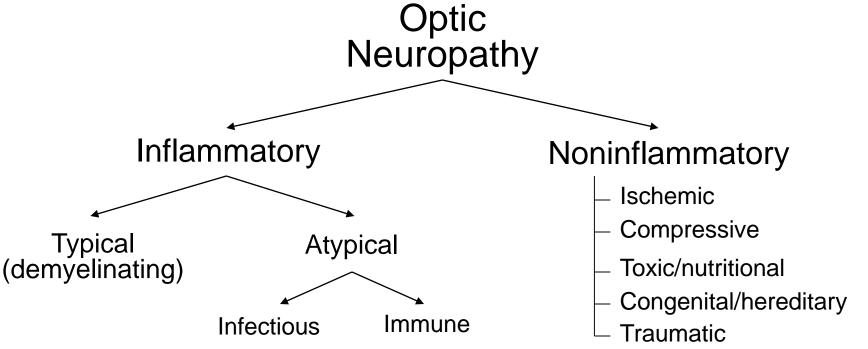






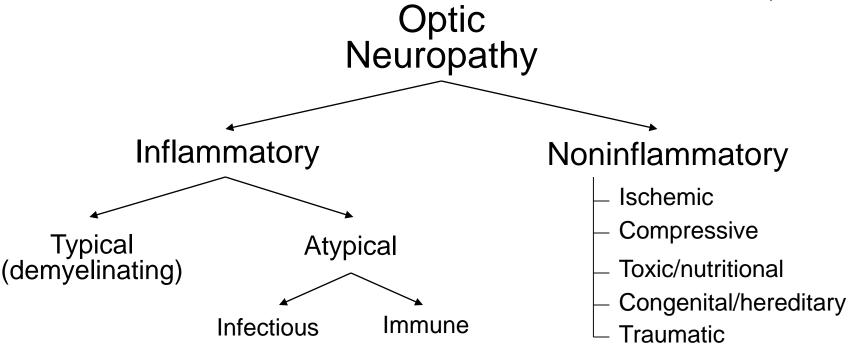
What is far-and-away the most common type of optic neuropathy? Hint...





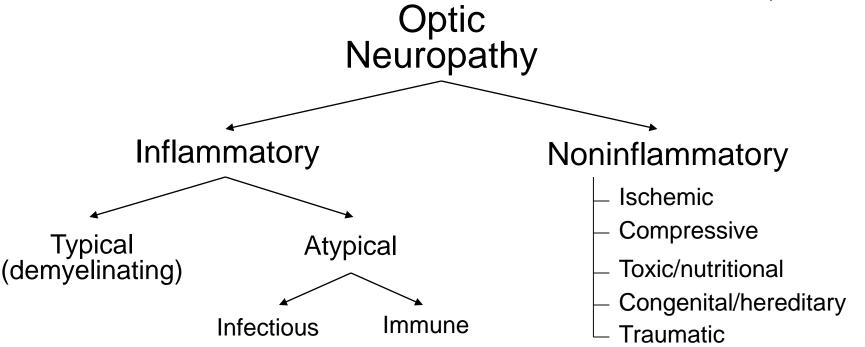
What is far-and-away the most common type of optic neuropathy? Hint...It's not listed on this slide! Hint...





What is far-and-away the most common type of optic neuropathy? Hint...It's not listed on this slide! Hint...It's so common, it gets its own ophthalmic subspecialty! It's...

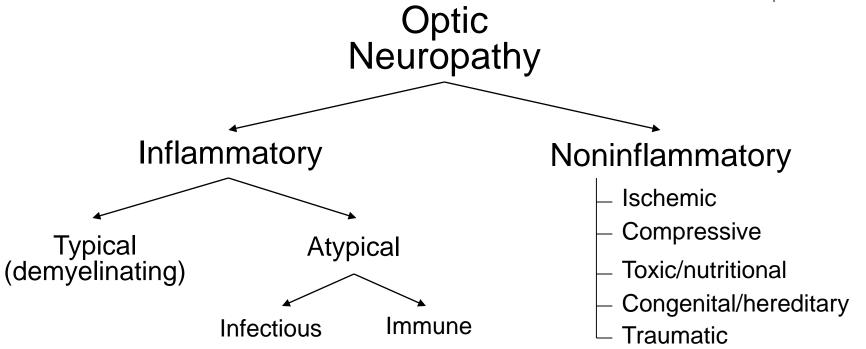




What is far-and-away the most common type of optic neuropathy? Hint…It's not listed on this slide!

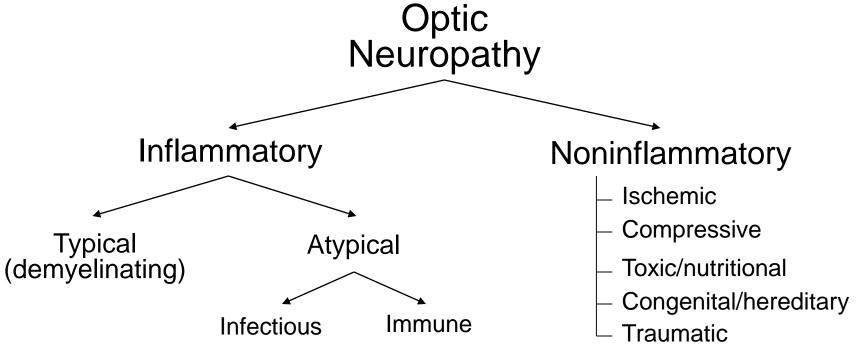
Hint...It's so common, it gets its own ophthalmic subspecialty! It's...**Glaucoma** (don't forget—glaucoma is an optic neuropathy!)





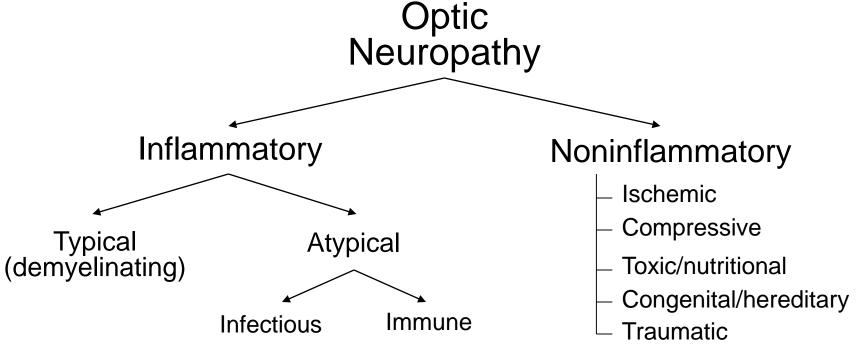
What exam finding is the sine qua non of unilateral or asymmetric bilateral optic neuropathy?





What exam finding is the sine qua non of unilateral or asymmetric bilateral optic neuropathy? A relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD)



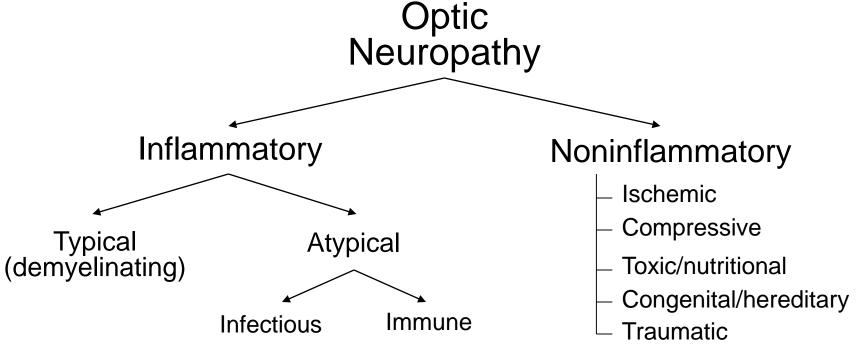


What exam finding is the sine qua non of unilateral or asymmetric bilateral optic neuropathy?

A relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD)

What should you do if a presumptive unilateral/asymmetric bilateral ON pt doesn't have an RAPD?



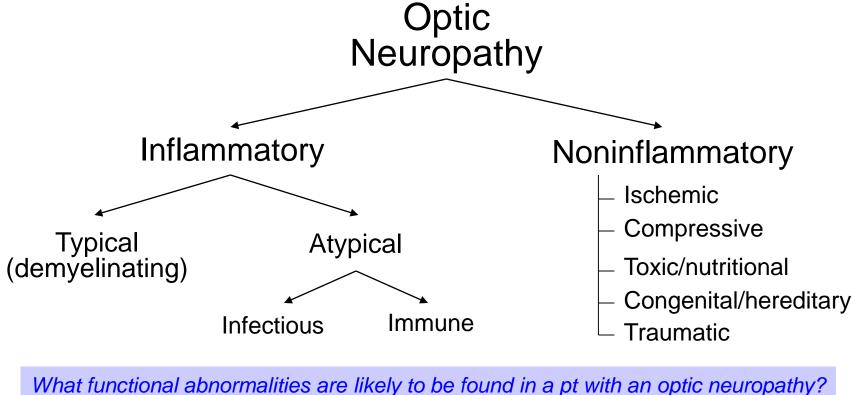


What exam finding is the sine qua non of unilateral or asymmetric bilateral optic neuropathy?

A relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD)

What should you do if a presumptive unilateral/asymmetric bilateral ON pt doesn't have an RAPD? You should question the diagnosis





-- Decreased

--Abnormal

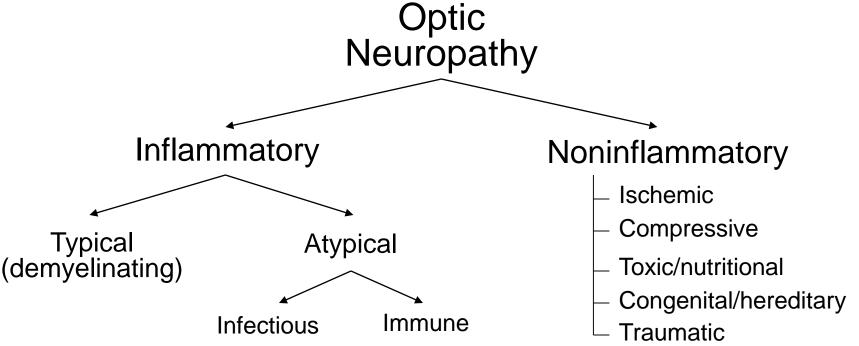
--Impaired

two words

two diff words

two diff diff words

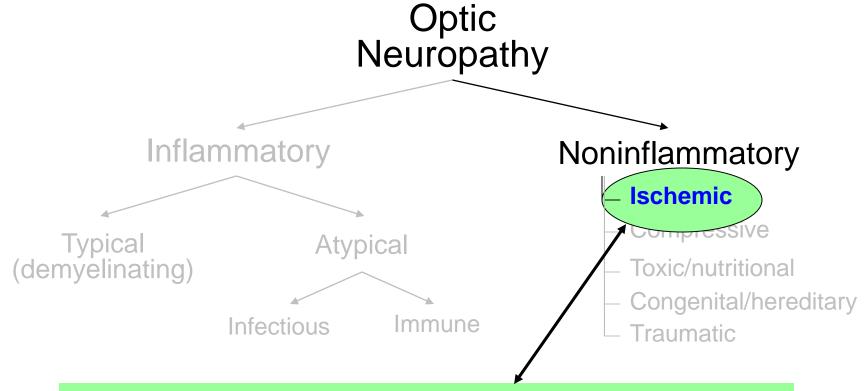




What functional abnormalities are likely to be found in a pt with an optic neuropathy?

- -- Decreased central acuity
- --Abnormal visual fields
- --Impaired color vision





Next, let's drill down and take a closer look at ischemic optic neuropathy







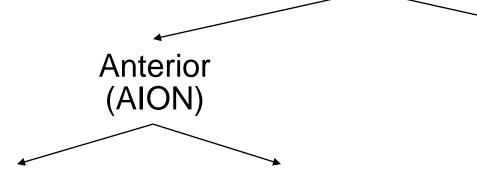


Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

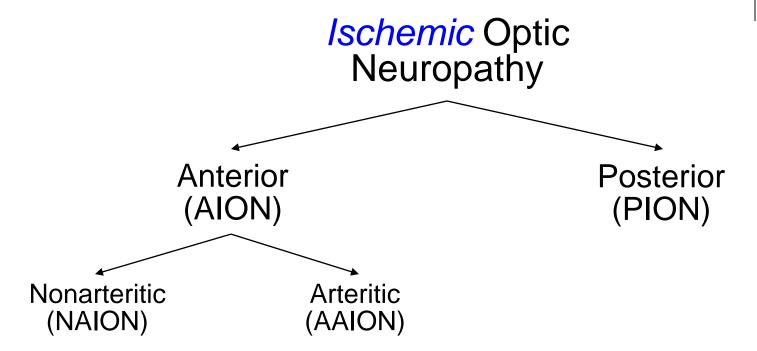






Posterior (PION)









Anterior (AION)

Nonarteritic (NAION)

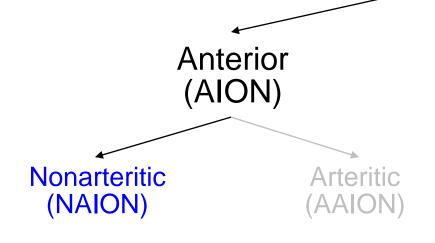
Arteritic (AAION)

Posterior (PION)

Which is most common?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Posterior (PION)

Which is most common? NAION, by far



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Nonarteritic (NAION)

Who is the classic NAION patient?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

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Nonarteritic (NAION)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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What is the classic complaint?



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What does this suggest about the pathophysiology of NAION?

Nonarteritic (NAION)



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Nonarteritic

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In addition to nocturnal hypotension, it is suggestive also that three words may contribute to NAION



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In addition to nocturnal hypotension, it is suggestive also that obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) may contribute to NAION



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Formal visual field testing is likely to reveal what?



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What if the disc isn't edematous?



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Then it isn't anterior ischemic optic neuropathy. Disc edema must be present to make this diagnosis.



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What if the disc is edematous, but also pallorous?



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What if the disc is edematous, but also pallorous? You should strongly consider a diagnosis of **arteritic** AION, and manage the pt accordingly



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A disc at risk



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What does a disc at risk look like?
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Arteritic AION

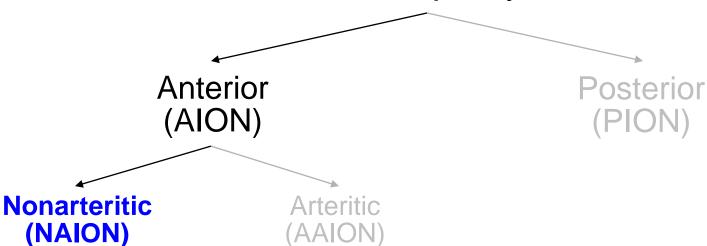
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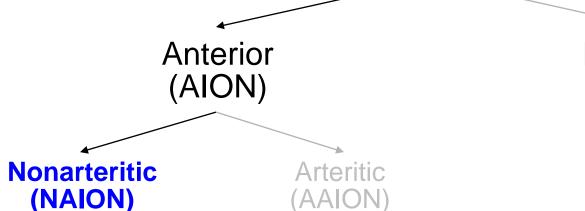
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What is the natural course of NAION?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



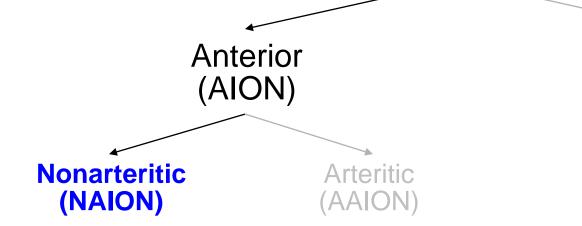
Posterior (PION)

What is the natural course of NAION?

For most (~2/3) patients, visual acuity/field deficits remain stable. About 1/4 will experience a modest improvement, and the rest a modest worsening—usually over the following 6 weeks or so.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Posterior (PION)

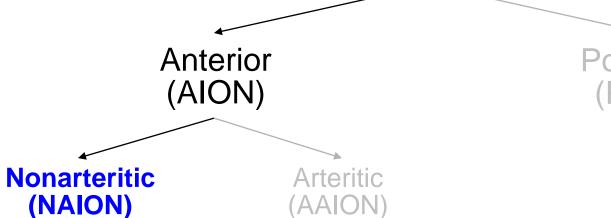
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What is the risk of NAION in the fellow eye?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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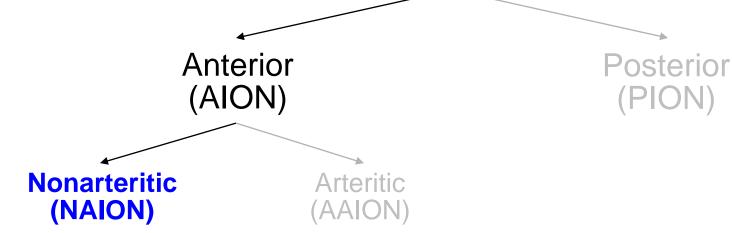
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What is the risk of NAION in the fellow eye? Five-year risk is 15 - 20%







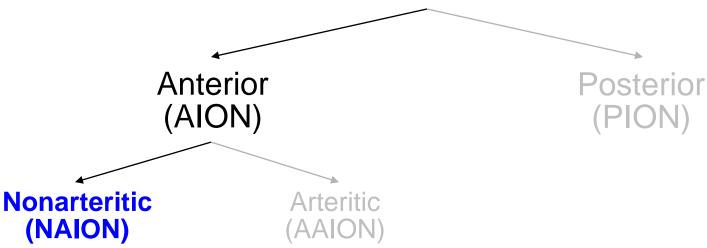
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recurrent same What is the risk of NAION in the fellow eye? Less than or equal to 5%



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior

Posterior

What is the treatment for NAION?

Nonarteritic (NAION)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior

Posterior

What is the treatment for NAION?
Nothing has proven effective

Nonarteritic (NAION)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior

Posterior

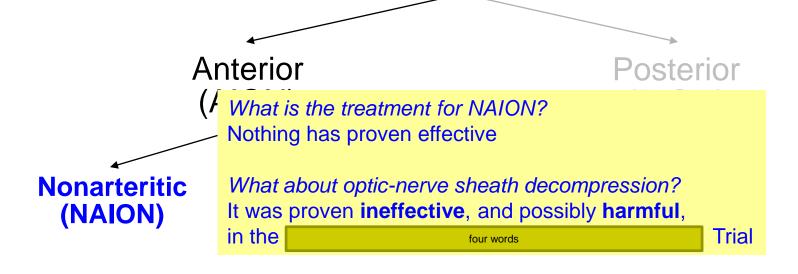
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What about optic-nerve sheath decompression?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy





Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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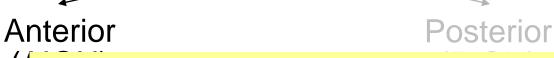
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What about optic-nerve sheath decompression?
It was proven **ineffective**, and possibly **harmful**,
in the Ischemic Optic Neuropathy Decompression Trial



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What is the treatment for NAION?

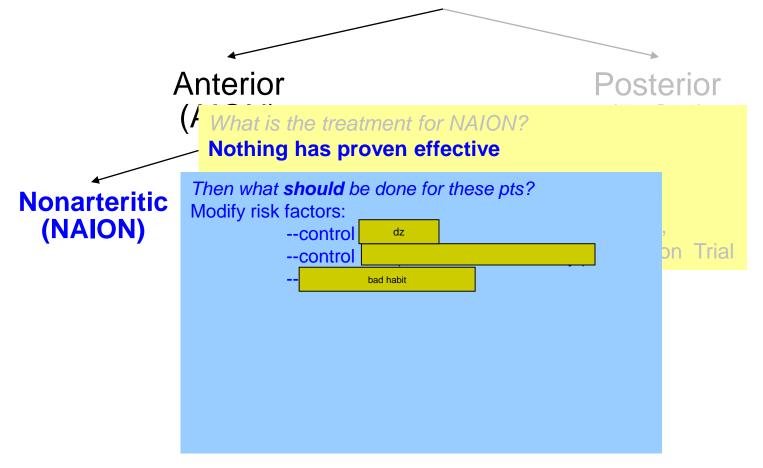
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Nonarteritic Then what should be done for these pts?

(NAION)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy





Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior

Posterior

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Nonarteritic (NAION)

Then what **should** be done for these pts? Modify risk factors:

- --control diabetes
- --control BP (but not overzealously!)
- --smoking cessation



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While there is no evidence to support it, many clinicians will put their NAION pts on dose (sort of) and med



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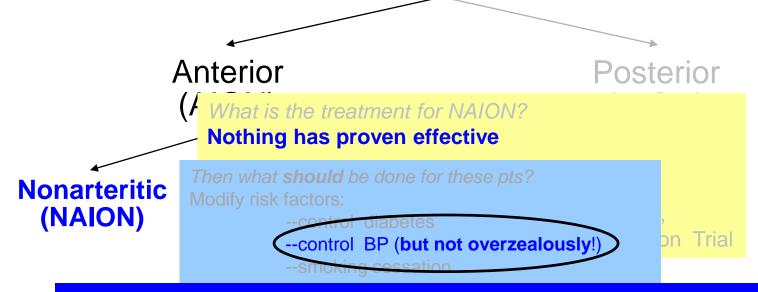
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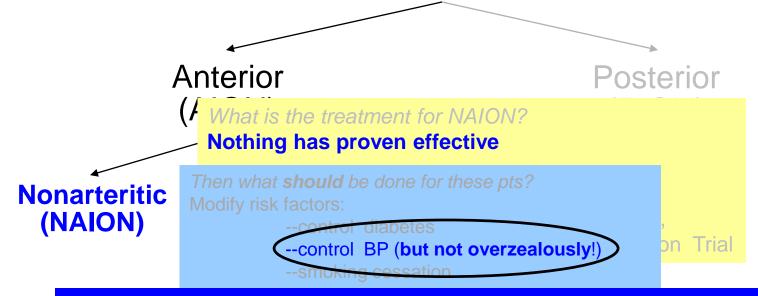


Why the caveat re not "overzealously" controlling BP?

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Why the caveat re not "overzealously" controlling BP?

Recall that nocturnal hypotension has been implicated in NAION, and management of HTN should take this into account. Dosing of HTN meds should be adjusted to avoid 'bottoming out' BP overnight.



Trial

Ischemic Optic

Neuronathy

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Regarding modifiable risk factors, neuro-ophthalmologist Andrew Lee emphasizes the 'Hs':
--Hypertension (nocturnal)
--Hyperglycemia (ie, DM)
--H
--H
--H
--H
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Nonarteritic (NAION)

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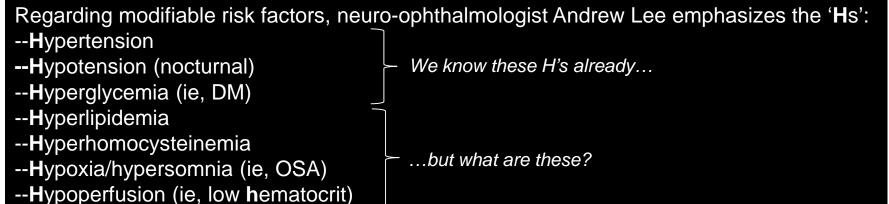
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Ischemic Optic

Neuronathy



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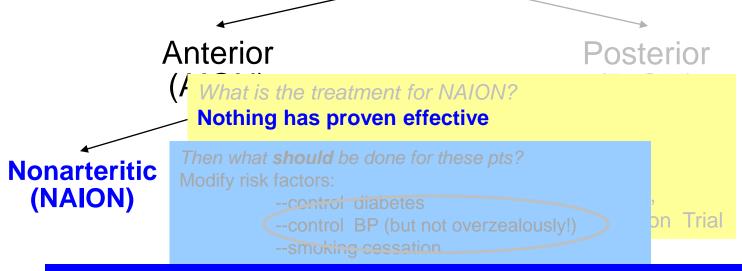
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



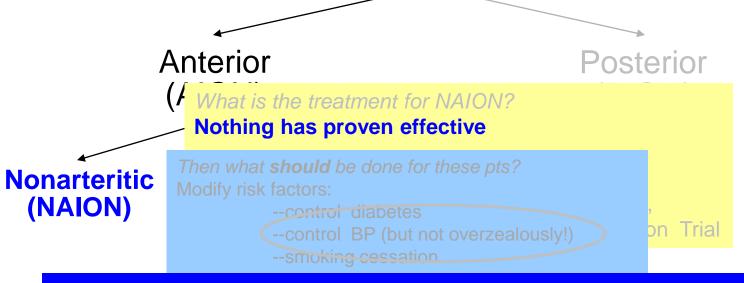
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Speaking of bottoming out BP...What class of meds should probably be avoided in NAION pts?

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Why the caveat re not "overzealously" controlling BP?

Speaking of bottoming out BP...What class of meds should probably be avoided in NAION pts? Phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors; eg, Viagra

should be adjusted to avoid 'bottoming out' BP overnight.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

What is the classic clinical setting for PION?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

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A pt who has recently undergone major surgery involving prolonged hypotension



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Posterior (PION)

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A pt who has recently undergone major surgery involving prolonged hypotension

What will DFE reveal?
Acutely:



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION) Posterior (PION)

What is the classic clinical setting for PION?

A pt who has recently undergone major surgery involving prolonged hypotension

What will DFE reveal?

Acutely: Nothing—no disc edema will be present



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Then it's an **anterior** ischemic optic neuropathy, not posterior



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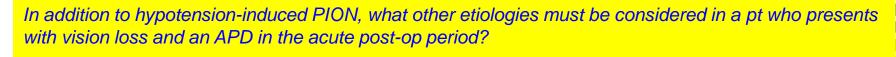
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No, because the infarct is not at the ONH--it's more posterior



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1) PION secondary to

two words

2)

four words

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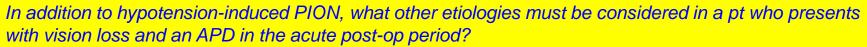
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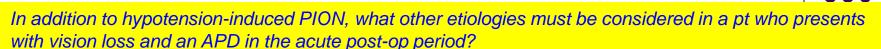
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What should you do if you suspect pituitary apoplexy? Image the pituitary region

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Why shouldn't a dx of nonarteritic PION be considered?

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Why shouldn't a dx of nonarteritic PION be considered? Because this essentially never happens

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Giant cell

And again

Nonarterit

As a general rule, comprehensive ophthalmologists should never diagnose PION outside of the acute post-op setting. Refer (emergently!) such pts to your friendly neighborhood neuro-oph, and let her make that call.

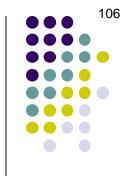
red?

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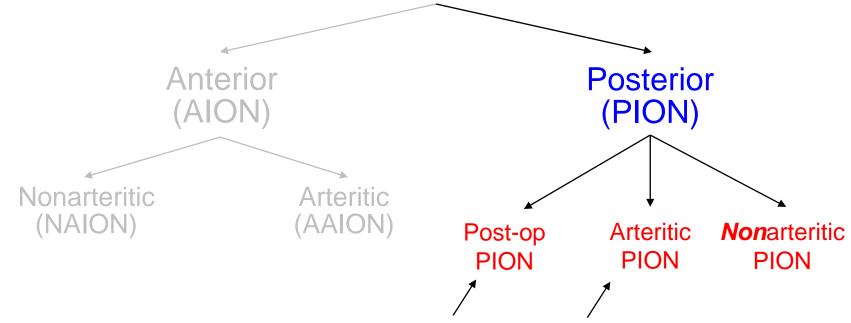
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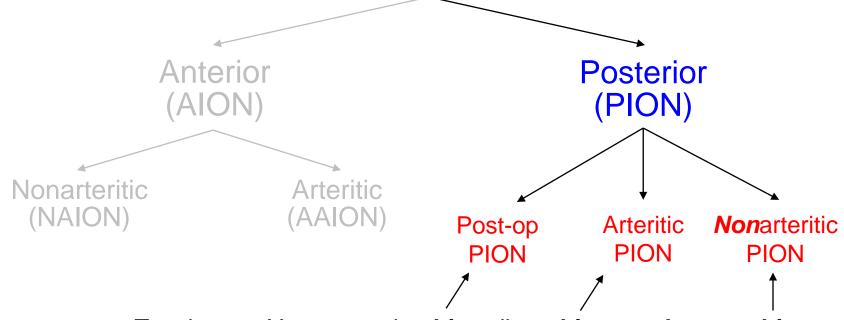
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



To reiterate: You can make this call, or this one...



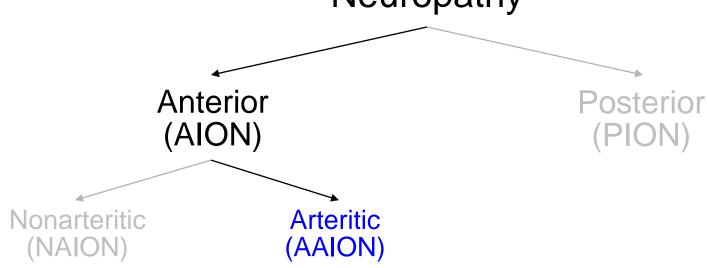
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To reiterate: You can make this call, or this one...but not this one.



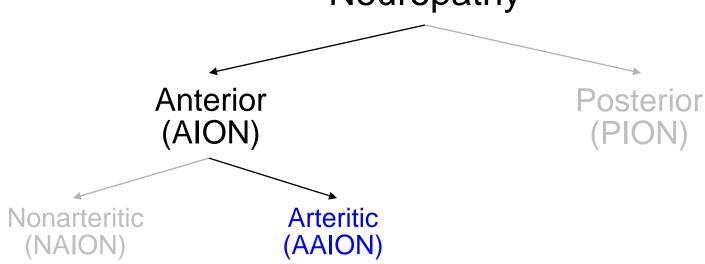




What systemic disease is causative in AAION?



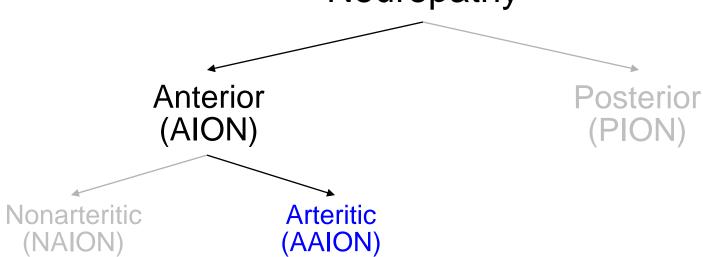
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What systemic disease is causative in AAION? Giant-cell arteritis--GCA (aka temporal arteritis)





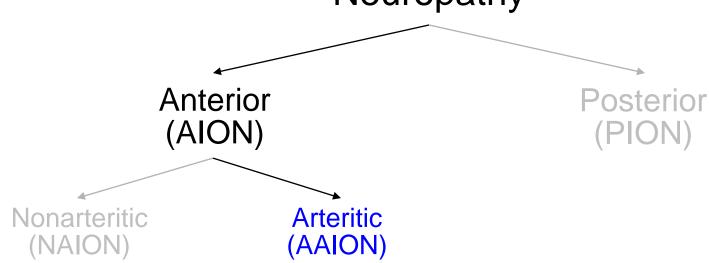


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In general terms, what is GCA?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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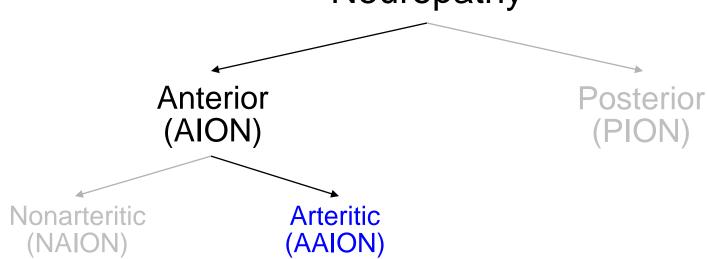
In general terms, what is GCA?
An inflammatory disease that targets

two-words indicating size

arteries





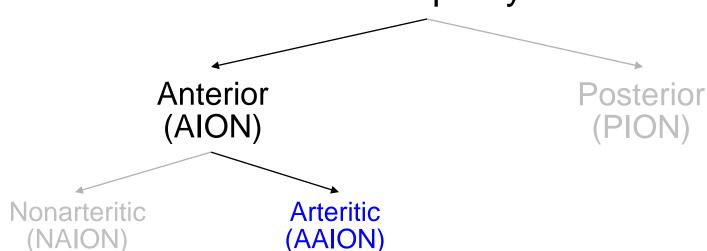


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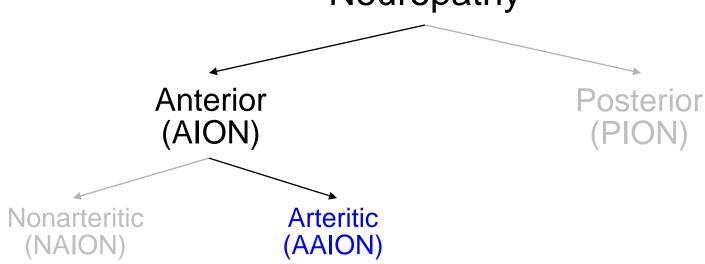
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Do all GCA pts experience vision loss?







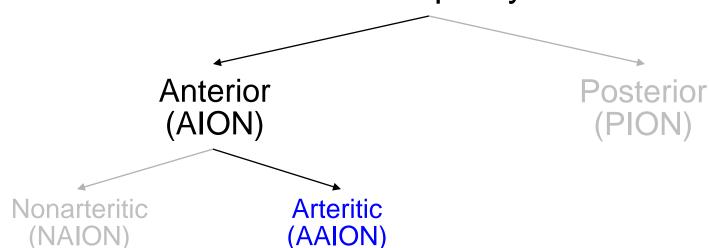
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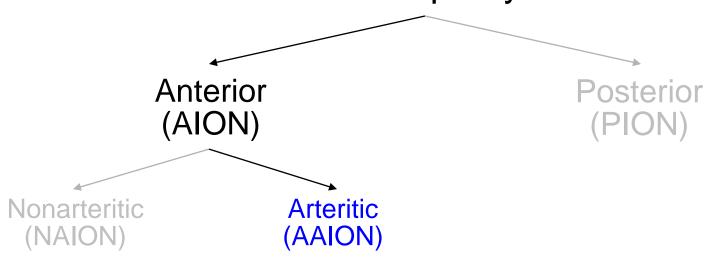
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Do all GCA pts experience vision loss? No, estimates are 10 – 50%, depending upon whom you ask







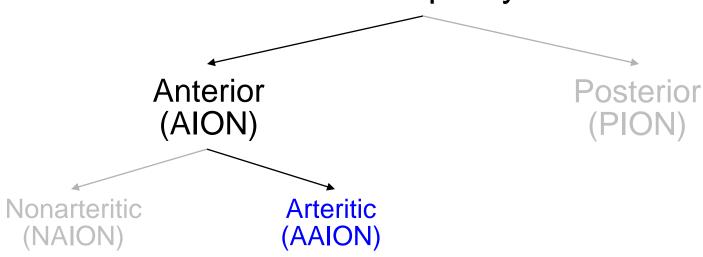
What systemic disease is causative in AAION?

In addition to infarction of the anterior optic nerve, by what two other events can a GCA pt lose vision?

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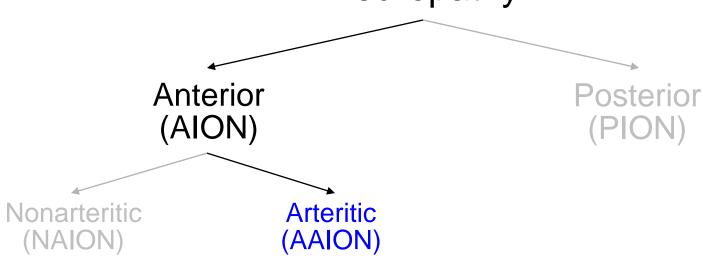
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--CRAO (or BRAO)

--Choroidal ischemia







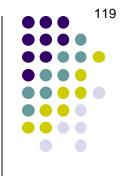
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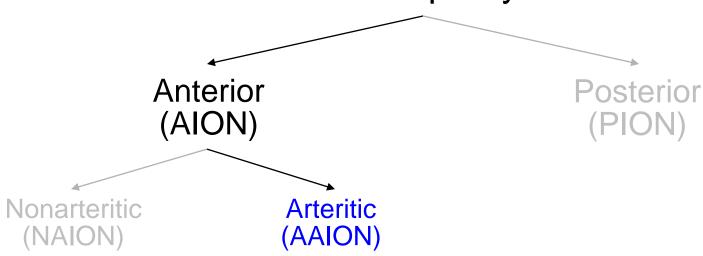
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Of the three causes, which is most common?



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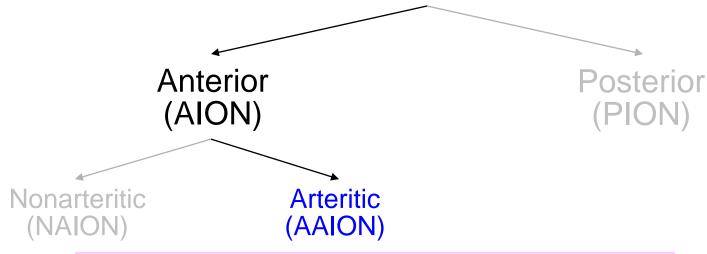
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What systemic disease is causative in AAION?

Is there a way to bag both the choroidal and retinal arterial circulations In addition to infarction with a single lesion?

ion?

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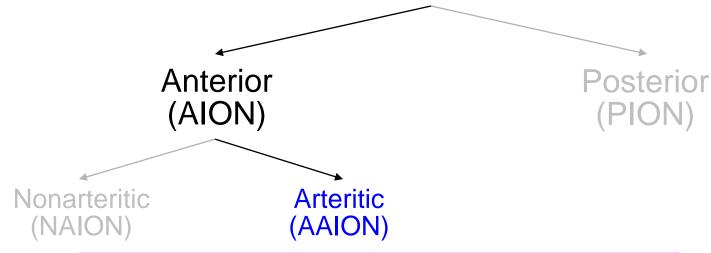
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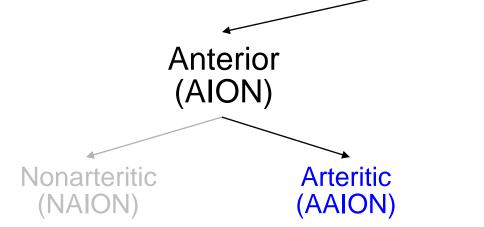
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Posterior (PION)

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Can GCA cause ophthalmic artery occlusion?

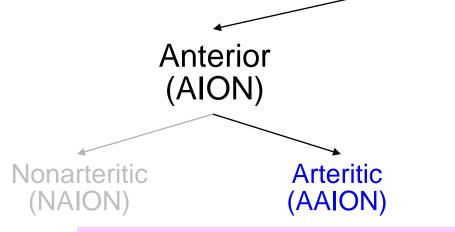
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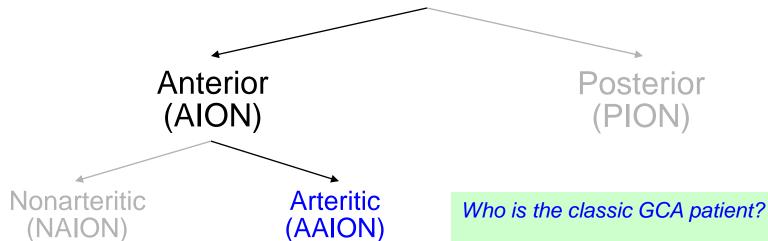
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Can GCA cause ophthalmic artery occlusion? Indeed it can

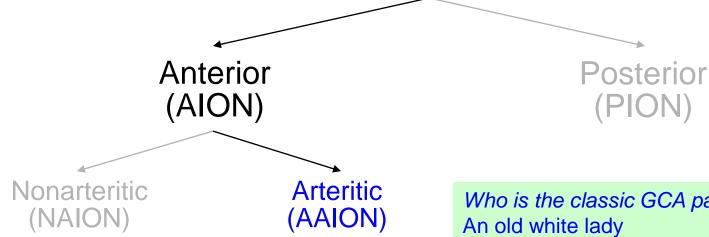








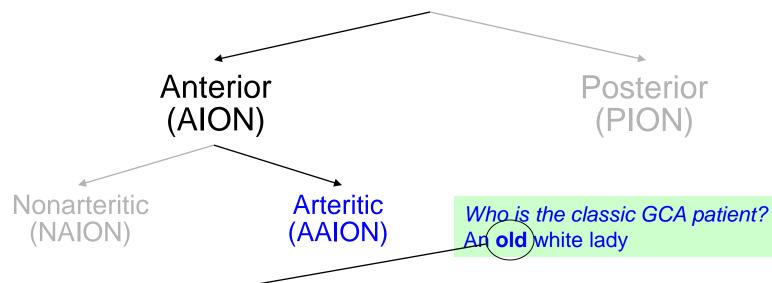




Who is the classic GCA patient?



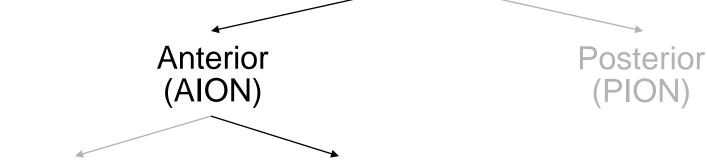
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



How old?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Nonarteritic (NAION)

Arteritic (AAION)

Who is the classic GCA patient?
An old white lady

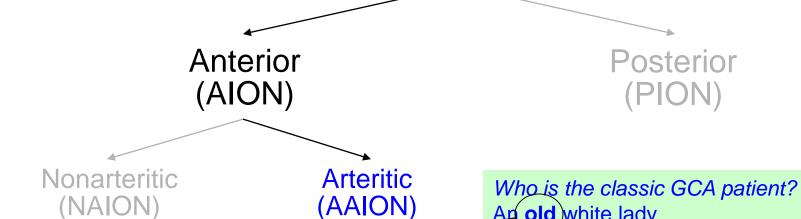
How old?

Typically #+ While the youngest case of bx-proven GCA was # it is very rare before age #



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Ar(old)white lady



How old?

Typically 70+. While the youngest case of bx-proven GCA was 39, it is very rare before age 50.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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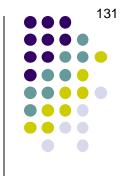
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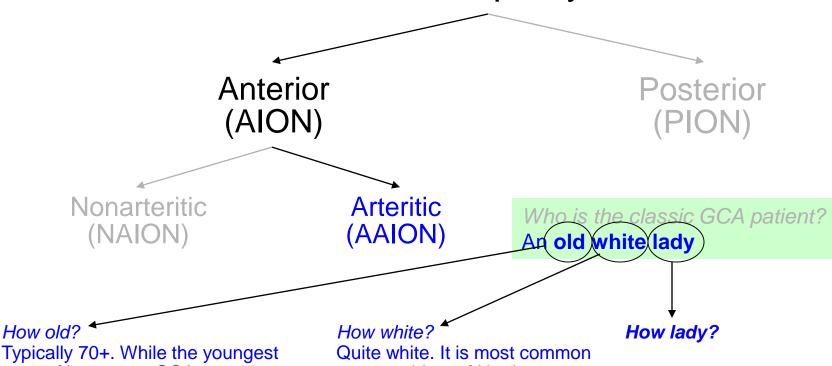
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How white?

Quite white. It is most common among whites of Northern European descent.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

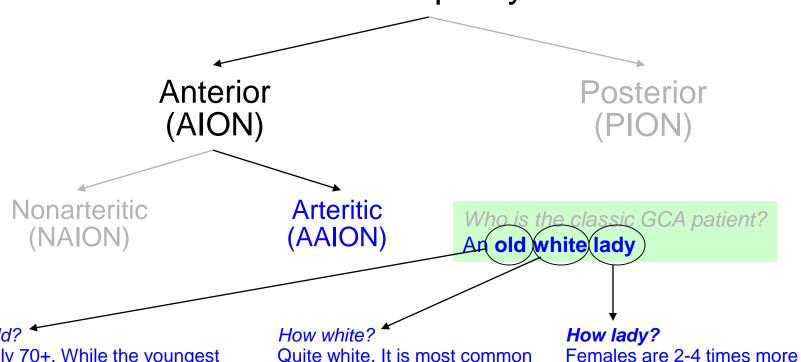


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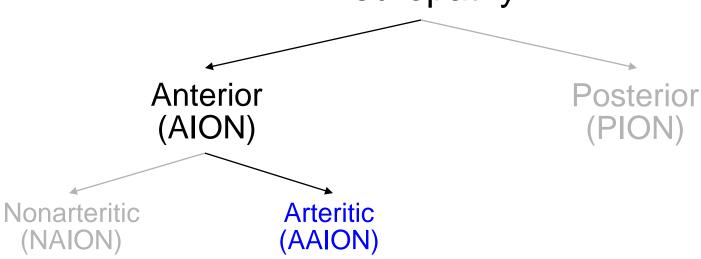
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Females are 2-4 times more likely to develop GCA



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss, what symptoms might a GCA pt report?

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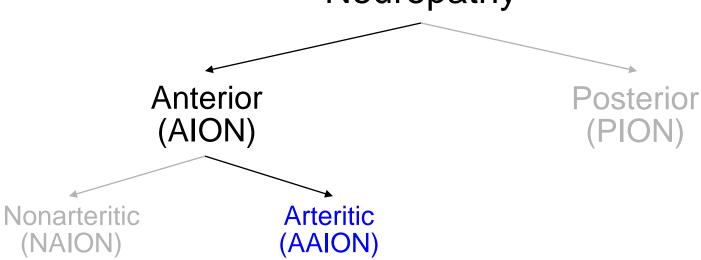
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Other than vision loss, what symptoms might a GCA pt report?

- --Headache
- -- Jaw claudication
- --Fever
- --Malaise
- --PMR symptoms
- --Diplopia



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Posterior (PION)

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Does it have to be a severe, 'worst HA of my life' complaint?

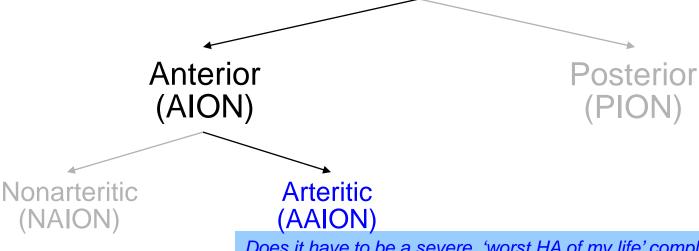
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss

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Does it have to be a severe, 'worst HA of my life' complaint? No! The HA may be mild in intensity. However, to be worrisome for GCA, the HA should have two characteristics:

- 1) It is of two words
- 2) It is two different words

from previous HAs (ie, a



HA)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Posterior (PION)

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Other than vision loss

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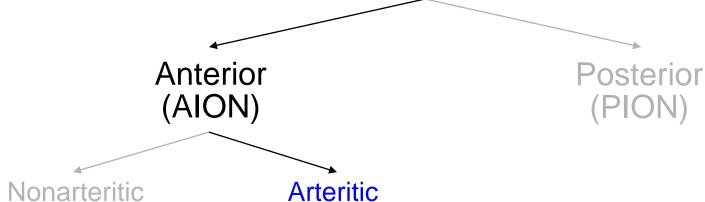
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Does it have to be a severe, 'worst HA of my life' complaint? No! The HA may be mild in intensity. However, to be worrisome for GCA, the HA should have two characteristics:

- 1) It is of recent onset
- 2) It is qualitatively different from previous HAs (ie, a 'new' HA)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss

--Headache

-- Jaw claudication

--Fever

(NAION)

- --Malaise
- --PMR symptoms

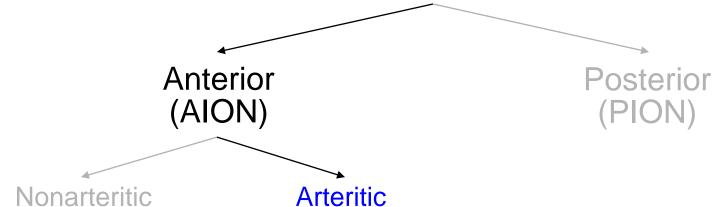
--Diplopia

What is jaw claudication?

(AAION)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss

- --Headache
- -- Jaw claudication
- --Fever

(NAION)

- --Malaise
- --PMR symptoms
- --Diplopia

What is jaw claudication?

(AAION)

Pain in the jaw brought on by chewing



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Posterior (PION)

Nonarteritic (NAION)

Arteritic (AAION)

Other than vision loss

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- --Malaise
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What is jaw claudication?
Pain in the jaw brought on by chewing

What is the etiology?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Nonarteritic (NAION)

Arteritic (AAION)

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Same as the leg claudication that PAD pts get when walking—poor muscle perfusion > muscle ischemia > pain upon use



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Does the pain localize to the TMJ?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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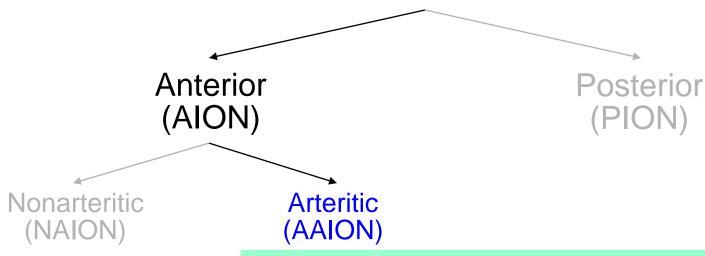
What is the etiology?

Same as the leg claudication that PAD pts get when walking—poor muscle perfusion→muscle ischemia→pain upon use

Does the pain localize to the TMJ? No! If it does, it's not claudication



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What nearby structure may claudicate in GCA as well?

Other than vision loss

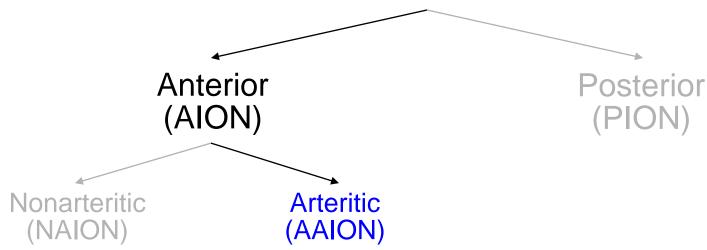
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g—



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss

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What nearby structure may claudicate in GCA as well? The tongue

g—



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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What is the classic provocative activity?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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How likely is it that a pt with tongue claudication has GCA?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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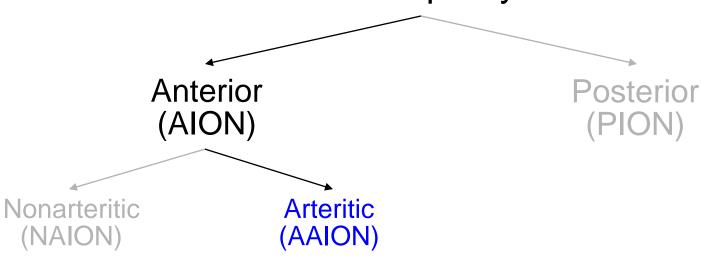
What nearby structure may claudicate in GCA as well? The tongue

What is the classic provocative activity? Extended speaking

How likely is it that a pt with tongue claudication has GCA? Tongue claudication is considered **pathognomonic** for GCA



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



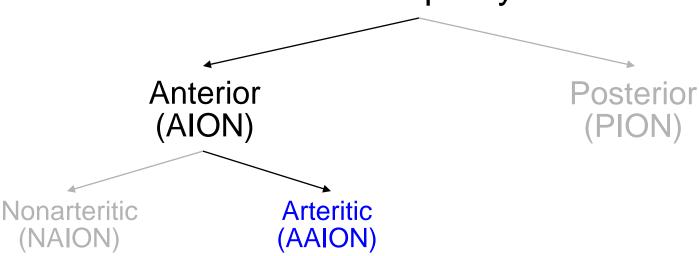
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Why do GCA pts get fever and malaise?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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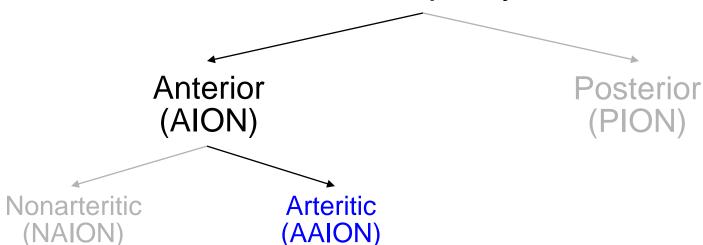
Why do GCA pts get fever and malaise?

Because it's a systemic inflammatory disease. Remember, many (but not all) GCA pts present with more than just visual complaints. These pts can feel lousy in general—they're sick.

--Diplopia



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



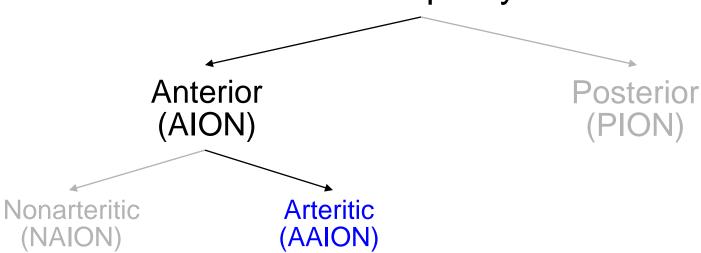
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What does PMR stand for?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



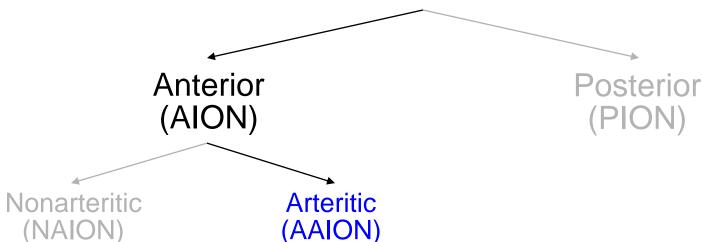
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What does PMR stand for? Polymyalgia rheumatica



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Other than vision loss, what symptoms might a GCA pt report?

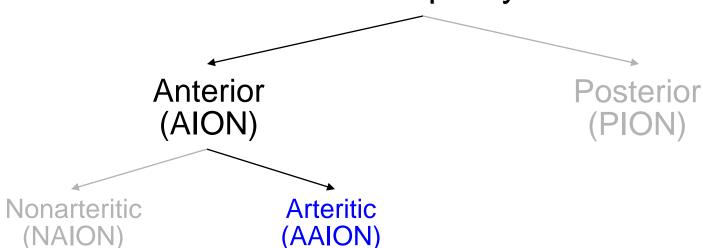
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What does PMR stand for? Polymyalgia rheumatica

Which is...?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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What does PMR stand for? Polymyalgia rheumatica

Which is ...?

A syndrome consisting of proximal muscle/joint pain and stiffness (ie, shoulder and hip joints/muscles)



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Can a GCA pt present with an apparent cranial nerve palsy?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Can a GCA pt present with an apparent cranial nerve palsy? Yes



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Which EOMs can be involved in creating the misalignment leading to diplopia?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Posterior (PION)

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Which EOMs can be involved in creating the misalignment leading to diplopia? Any of them



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Can a GCA pt present with an apparent cranial nerve palsy? Yes

Which EOMs can be involved in creating the misalignment leading to diplopia? Any of them

Of the following, which apparent CN palsy can be a manifestation of GCA: CN3, CN4, and/or CN6?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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You keep saying 'apparent' CN palsy. Why the equivocation?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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You keep saying 'apparent' CN palsy. Why the equivocation?

Because EOM palsy secondary to GCA is much more likely to result from hypoperfusion of the muscle(s) involved rather than infarction of a cranial nerve



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Posterior (PION)

Can a GCA pt present with an apparent cranial nerve palsy? Yes

Which EOMs can be involved in creating the misalignment leading to diplopia? Any of them

Of the follo All of them Just to be clear--Are you saying GCA can't cause an acute cranial-nerve palsy?

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--Diplopia



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Can a GCA pt present with an apparent cranial nerve palsy? Yes

Which EOMs can be involved in creating the misalignment leading to diplopia? Any of them

Of the follo

Just to be clear--Are you saying GCA can't cause an acute cranial-nerve palsy? No, it definitely can. What I'm saying is <u>EOM palsy in GCA is more likely to be caused by infarction of the muscle itself rather than infarction of its nerve supply</u>

CN6?

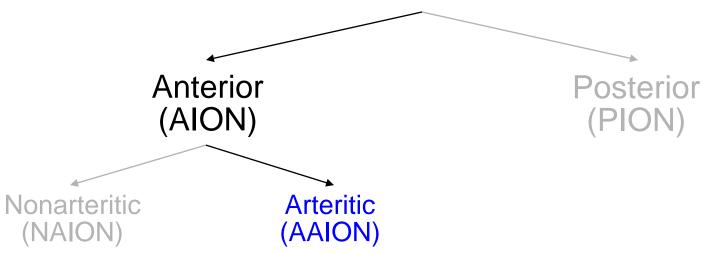
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



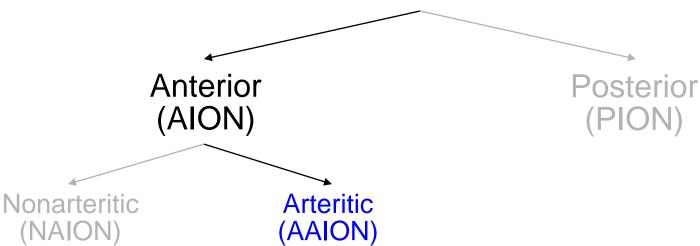
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Finally, in what other bodypart do GCA pts report experiencing pain?



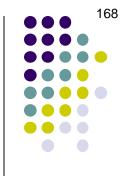
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



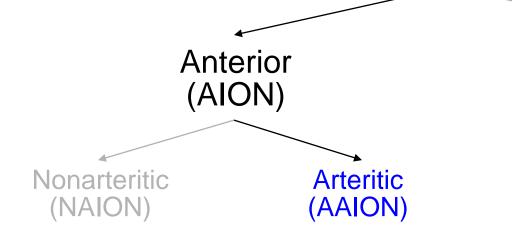
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Finally, in what other bodypart do GCA pts report experiencing pain? Many GCA pts c/o **neck pain**, which may be part of their PMR



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



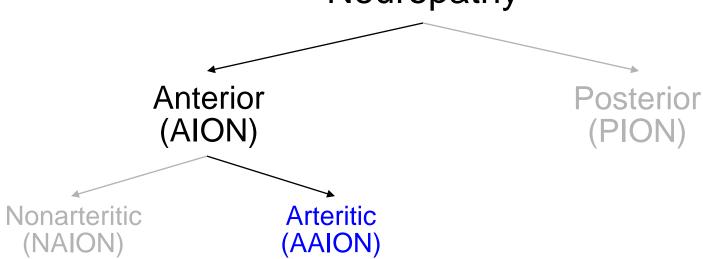
Posterior (PION)

As a general rule, consider GCA in any pt 50+ who presents with any of the following:

- --Diplopia
- --CRAO (without emboli apparent on DFE)
- --Amaurosis fugax (ditto)
- --Ischemic optic neuropathy



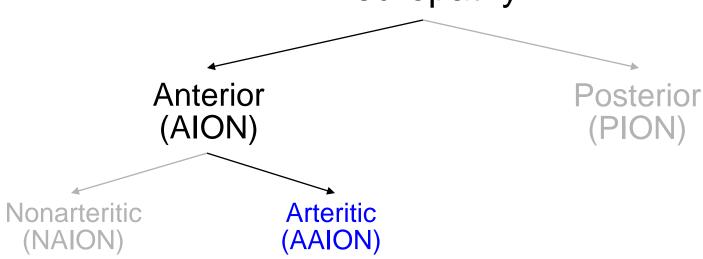
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What four lab studies might be useful in diagnosing GCA?





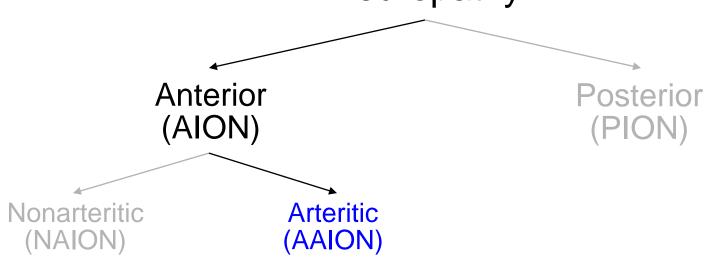


What four lab studies might be useful in diagnosing GCA?

- --ESR
- --CRP
- --Platelet count
- --H&H







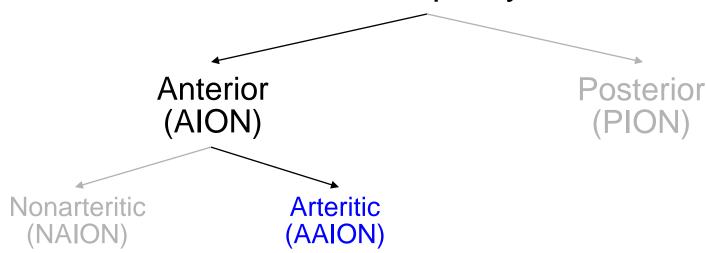
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Which test is **most** useful in diagnosing GCA?







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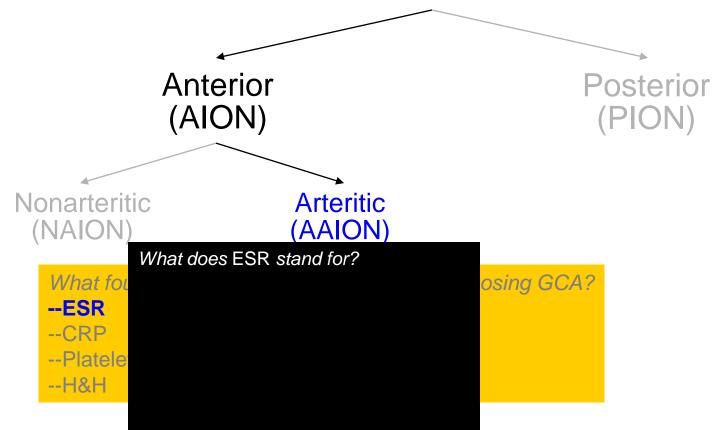
--Platelet count

ESR

--H&H

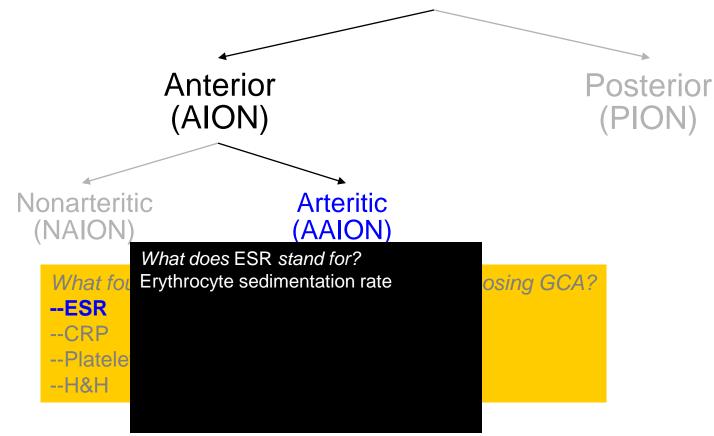


Ischemic Optic Neuropathy





Ischemic Optic Neuropathy





Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Nonarteritic (NAION)

Arteritic (AAION)

What does **ESR** stand for? Erythrocyte sedimentation rate

osing (

Sometimes it's abbreviated **W**ESR. What does the W stand for?

What for

--ESR

--CRP

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--H&H



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What does **ESR** stand for? Erythrocyte sedimentation rate

West osing (studie

Sometimes it's abbreviated **W**ESR. What does the W stand for? Westergren, the pathologist who studied it

What fo

--CRP

DI (

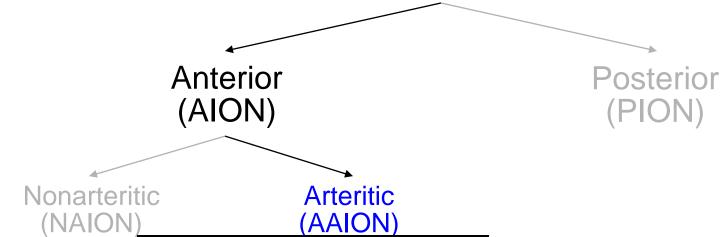
--Platele

--H&H



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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What is it, exactly?

--CRP

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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What does ESR stand for? Erythrocyte sedimentation rate

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--ESR --CRP --Platele --H&H

What is it, exactly?

A measure of how fast RBCs precipitate



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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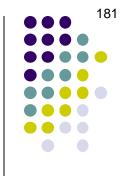
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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--ESR What is it, exactly? --CRP

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What are the mm/Hr

Why do RBCs precipitate faster in the presence of inflammation?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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--Platele

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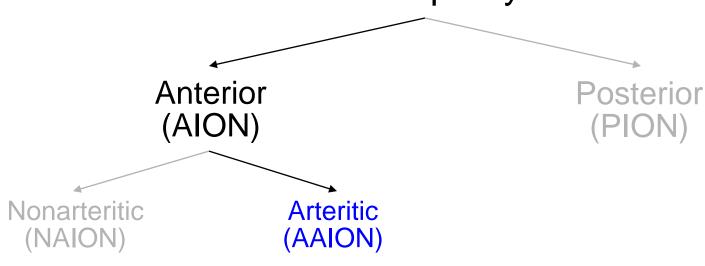
A measure of how fast RBCs precipitate

--H&H What are the mm/Hr

Why do RBCs precipitate faster in the presence of inflammation? Inflammation increases serum concentrations of fibrinogen, which promotes inter-RBC adhesions. The stacks of stuck RBCs precipitate more quickly than individual RBCs will.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

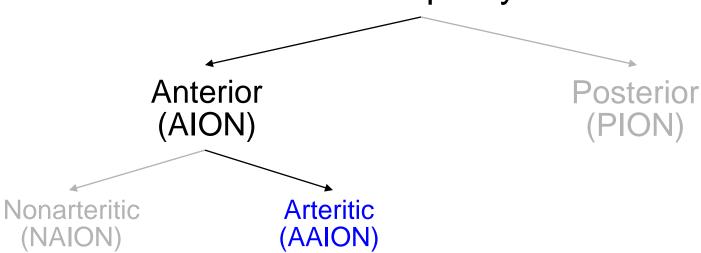


What is the upper limit of normal for ESR?

--ESR --CRP --Platele







What fo

What is the upper limit of normal for ESR?

It is usually 20 mm/Hr, however, ESR tends to rise with age, and is higher in females. Thus the age- and gender-corrected formulae for the upper-limit-of-normal ESR are: **Males:**

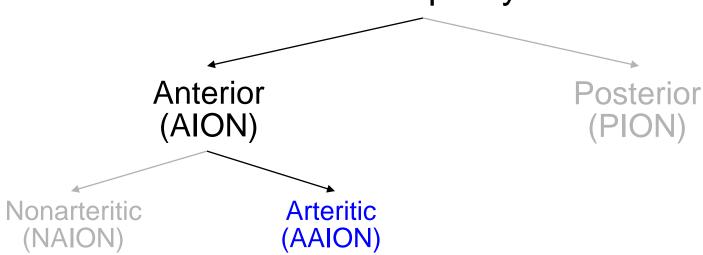
--Platele Females:

--H&H

--CRP







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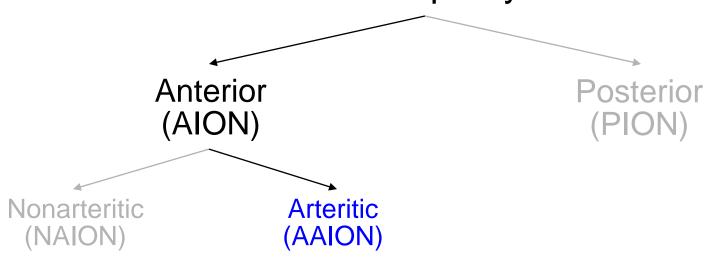
--Platele

Females: (Age +10)/2

--H&H



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



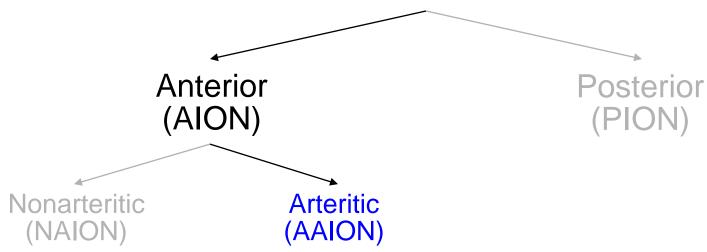
Is the ESR always elevated in GCA?

--ESR --CRP --Platel --H&H

What f



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

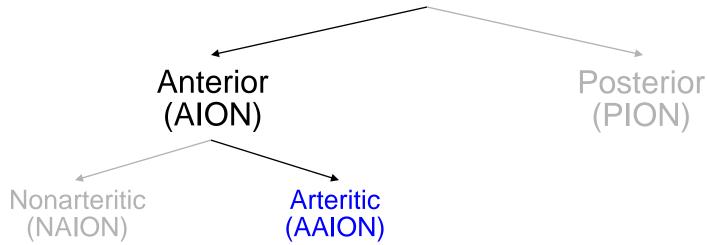


What fo --ESR --CRP --Platel€ --H&H Is the ESR always elevated in GCA?

No! In fact, studies have found that up to 20% of bx-proven GCA have a normal ESR!







What fo --ESR --CRP --Platele --H&H

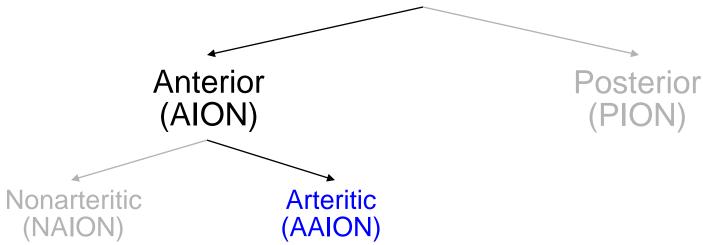
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When elevated, does ESR correlate with GCA severity, ie, the higher the ESR, the more severe the inflammation?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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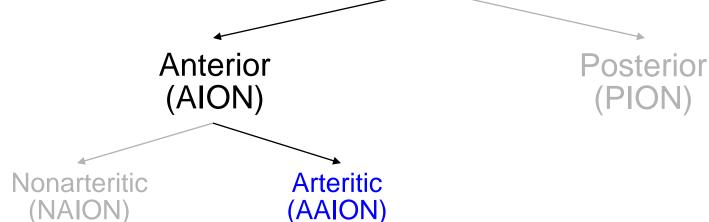
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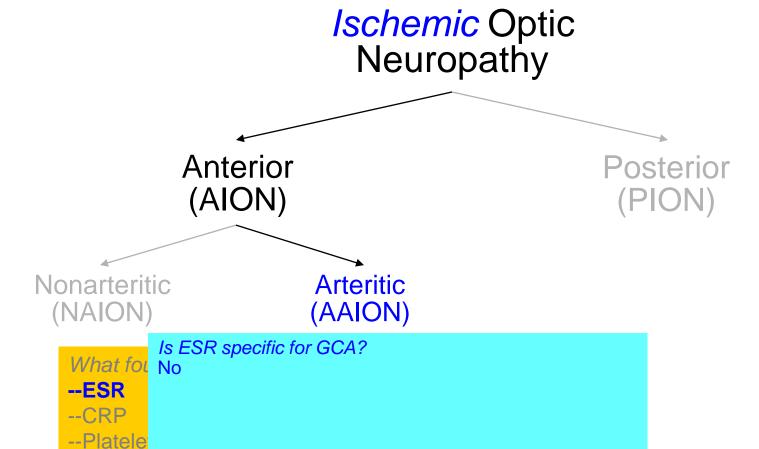
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Is ESR specific for GCA?

What for --ESR --CRP --Platele --H&H

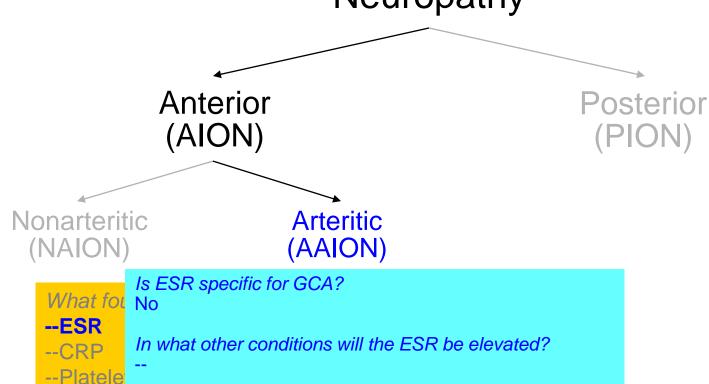




--H&H



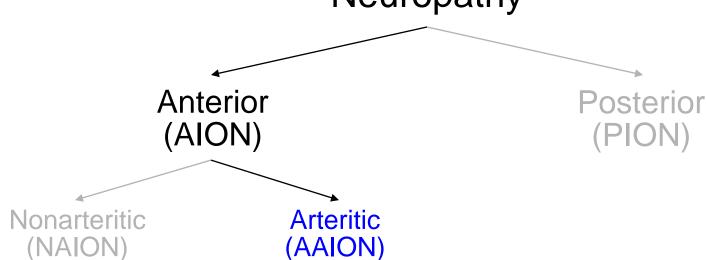




--H&H







What for No
--ESR
--CRP
--Platele
--H&H
--N

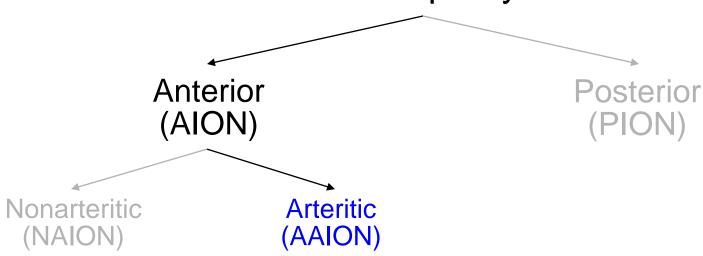
Is ESR specific for GCA?

In what other conditions will the ESR be elevated?

- -- Malignancy
- --Non-vasculitic inflammatory conditions
- --Noninflammatory vascular diseases (eg, arteriosclerosis)



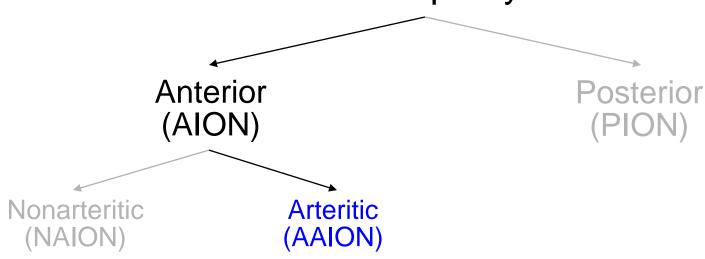




What for --ESR --CRP --Platele --H&H



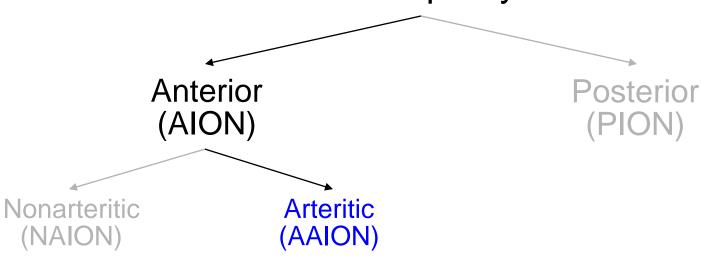




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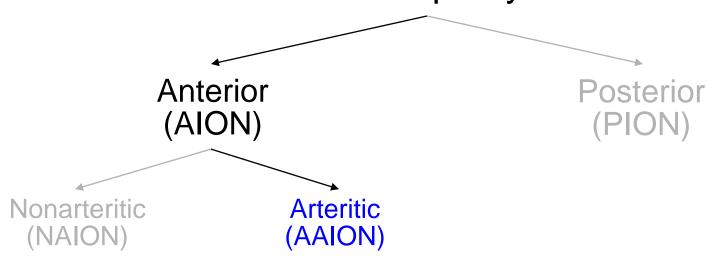




What for control of the control of t









Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Nonarteriti (NAION) Which rises faster during acute inflammation (including GCA)—ESR or CRP?

What four --ESR --CRP --Platelet --H&H



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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What four --ESR --CRP --Platelet --H&H Which is more sensitive for GCA?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Posterior (PION)

Nonarteriti (NAION)

Which rises faster during acute inflammation (including GCA)—ESR or CRP? **CRP**

What fou --ESR

--CRP

--Platelet

--H&H

Which is more sensitive for GCA? **CRP**



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior

Nonarteriti

Which rises faster during acute inflammation (including GCA)—ESR or CRP? **CRP**

What fou --ESR --CRP

Which is more sensitive for GCA? **CRP**

--Platelet --H&H

Which is less influenced by age, anemia, etc?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Nonarteriti (NAION)

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

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Are they both contributory; ie, if ESR and CRP are both elevated, is the likelihood of GCA higher than if only one or the other is elevated?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

Anterior (AION)

Posterior (PION)

Nonarteriti (NAION) Which rises faster during acute inflammation (including GCA)—ESR or CRP? CRP

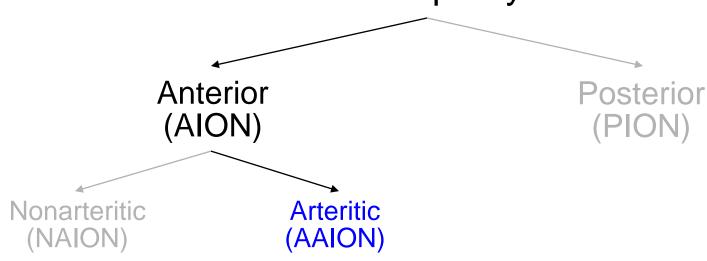
What four --ESR --CRP --Platelet --H&H Which is more sensitive for GCA? CRP

Which is less influenced by age, anemia, etc? CRP

Are they both contributory; ie, if ESR and CRP are both elevated, is the likelihood of GCA higher than if only one or the other is elevated? Yes; specificity approaches **97%** if both are significantly elevated



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



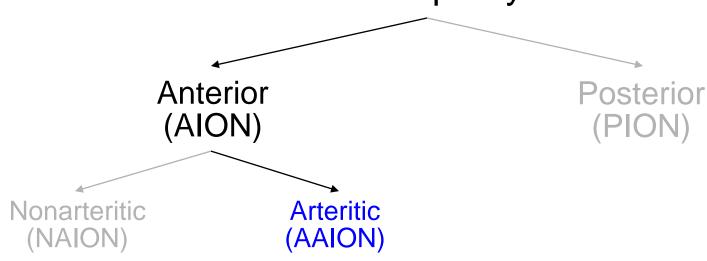
--H&H

What four lab studies might be useful in discressing GCA?

--ESR
--CRP
--Platelet count



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What four lab studies might be useful in diagnosing CCA2

--ESR

--CRP

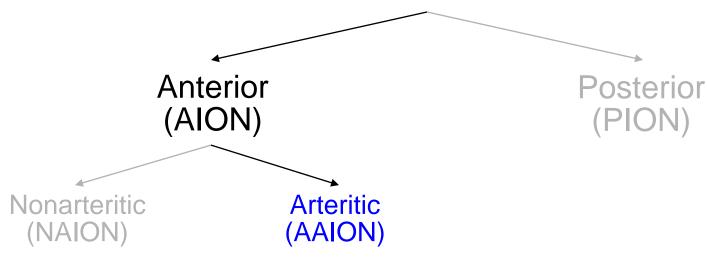
--Platelet count

--H&H

Do you expect the platelet count to be high or low in GCA? **High.** Platelet count acts like an acute-phase reactant.







What four lab studies might be useful in diagnosing CCA?

Do you expect the platelet count to be high or low in GCA?

--ESR

--CRP

--Platelet count

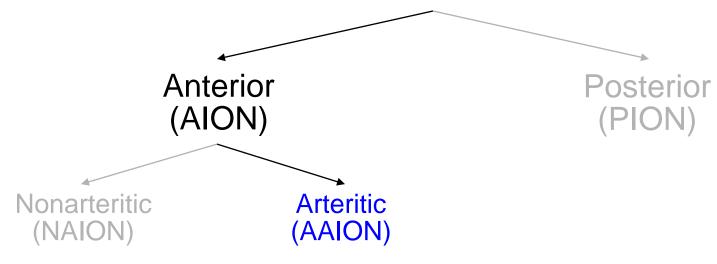
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Do you expect the H&H to be high or low in GCA?

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What four lab studies might be useful in diagnosing CCA2

--ESR

--CRP

--Platelet count

--H&H

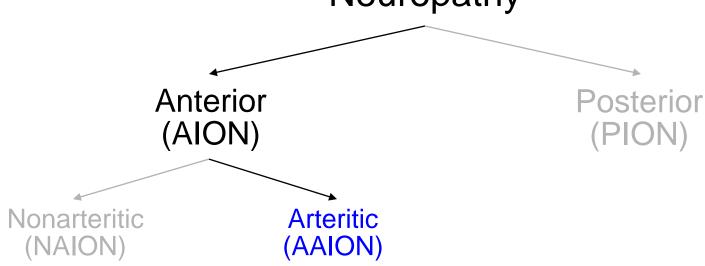
Do you expect the H&H to be high or low in GCA? **Low.** GCA is associated with anemia.

Do you expect the platelet count to be high or low in GCA?

High. Platelet count acts like an acute-phase reactant.



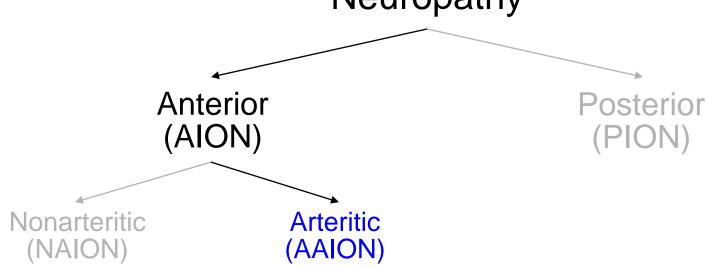




What imaging study might be contributory in diagnosing GCA?



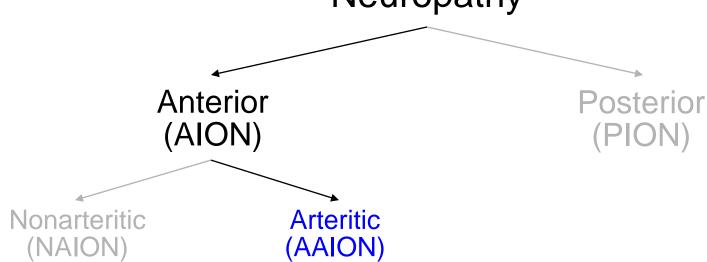
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What imaging study might be contributory in diagnosing GCA? Fluorescein angiography (FA)







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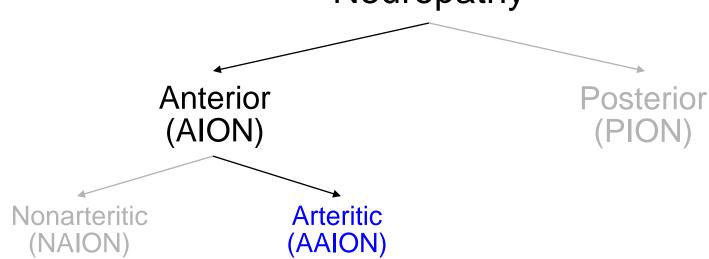
What are the two classic FA findings in GCA?

1)

2)



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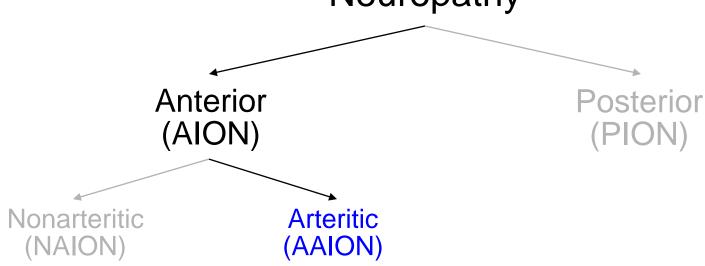
What imaging study might be contributory in diagnosing GCA? Fluorescein angiography (FA)

What are the two classic FA findings in GCA?

- 1) Delayed arm-to-eye time
- 2) Patchy choroidal hypofluorescence



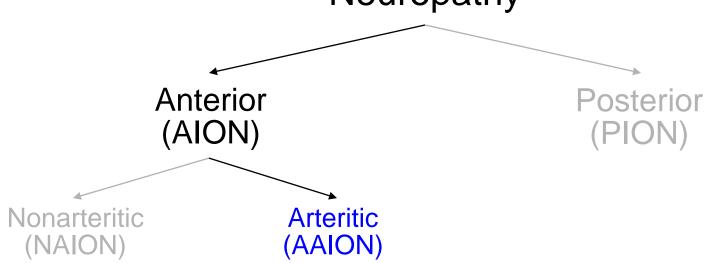




What procedure is the gold standard for diagnosing GCA?



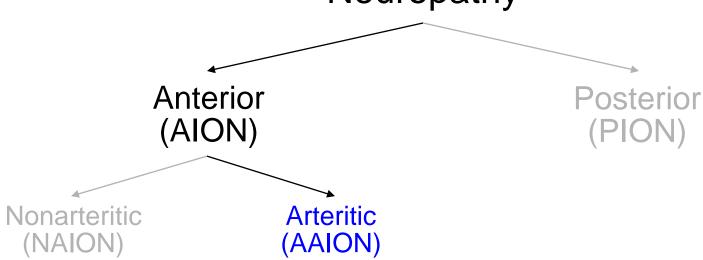
Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



What procedure is the gold standard for diagnosing GCA? Temporal artery biopsy (TAB)





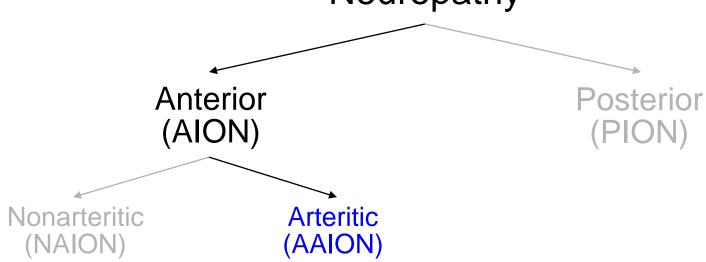


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Why biopsy the temporal artery?





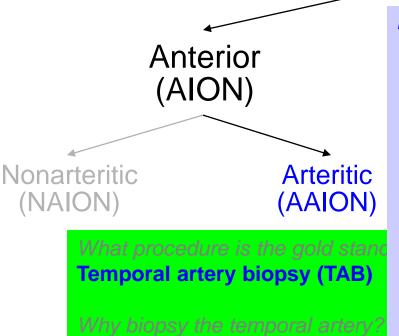


What procedure is the gold standard for diagnosing GCA? Temporal artery biopsy (TAB)

Why biopsy the temporal artery? It's readily accessible, and (usually) nonvital



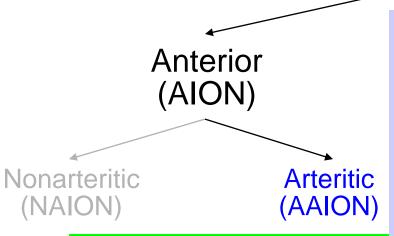
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How much artery should you take?



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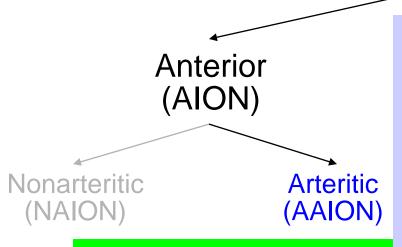
How much artery should you take?
At least 2 cm; some suggest as much as 6

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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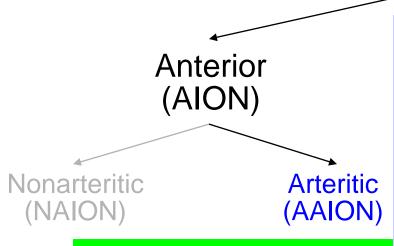
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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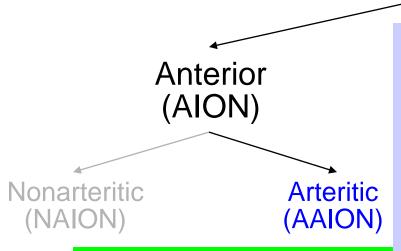
NO! The biopsy will remain positive long after treatment is initiated. Most authorities say you can delay TAB a week or more without interfering with the results.

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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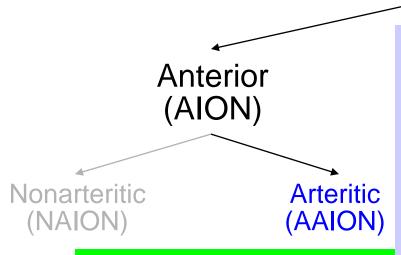
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How should the specimen be sectioned?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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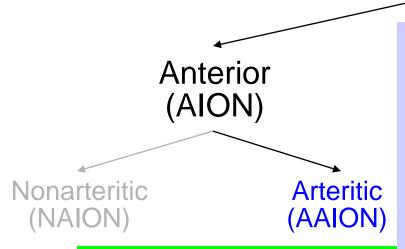
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How should the specimen be sectioned? Finely. GCA is notorious for skip lesions, in which portion of the artery will be unaffected. If the sections aren't fine enough, the pathology will be missed.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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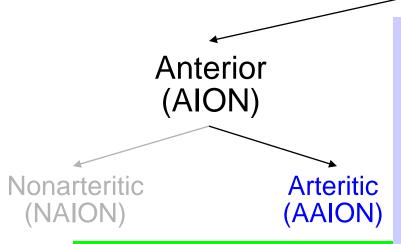
What specifically is the pathologist looking for?

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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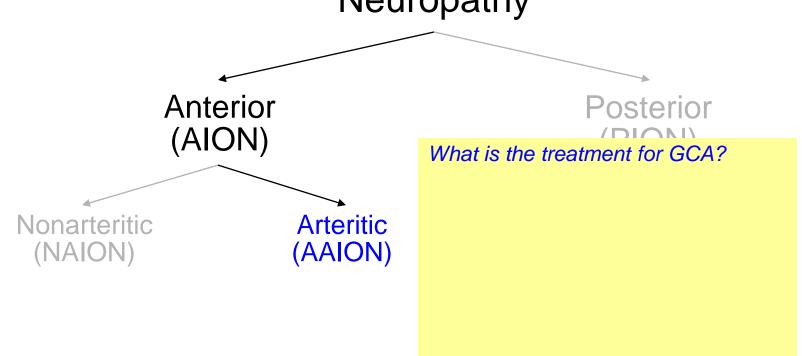
How should the specimen be sectioned? Finely. GCA is notorious for skip lesions, in which portion of the artery will be unaffected. If the sections aren't fine enough, the pathology will be missed.

What specifically is the pathologist looking for?

- --Giant cells (duh)
- --Fragmentation of the internal elastic lamina
- -- Granulomas

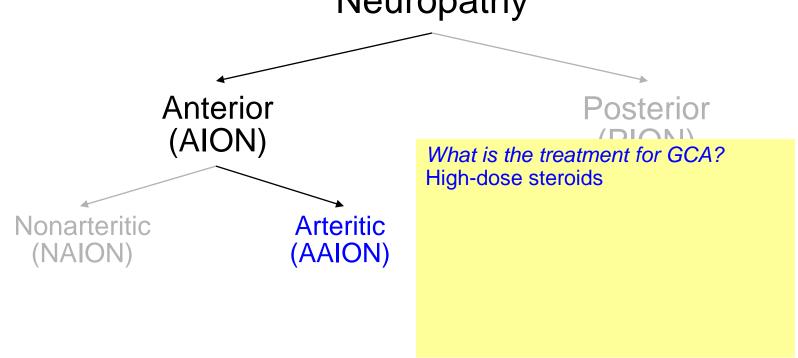


Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



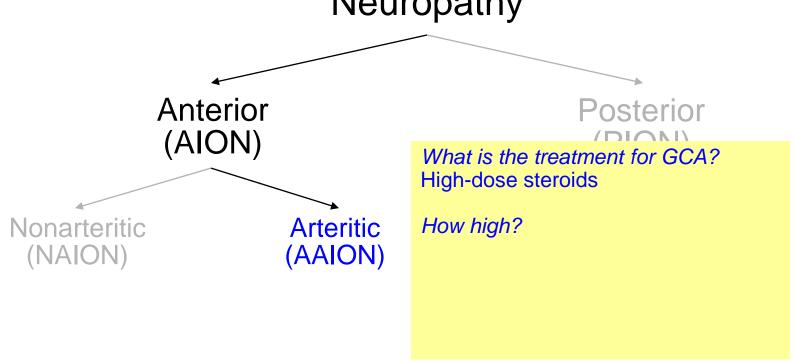


Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



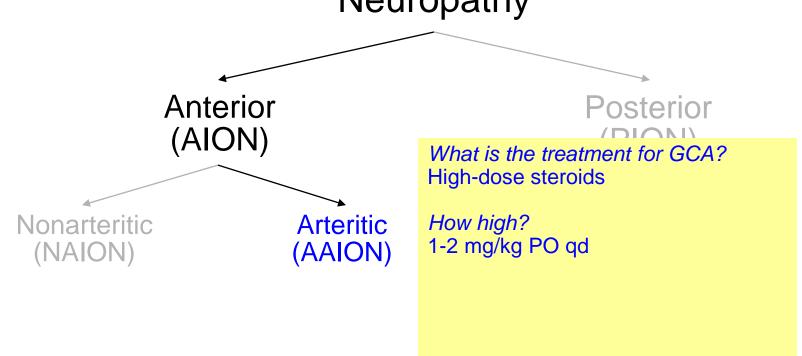


Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



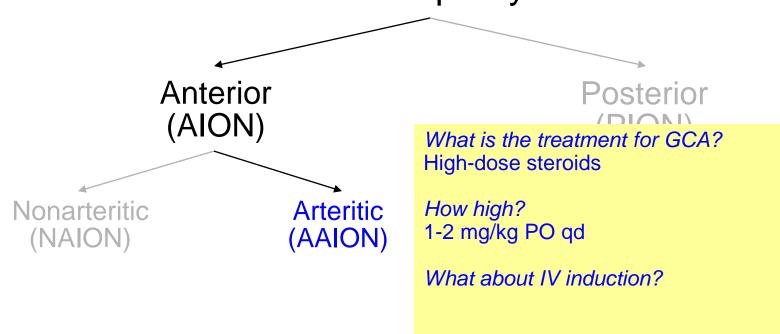


Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



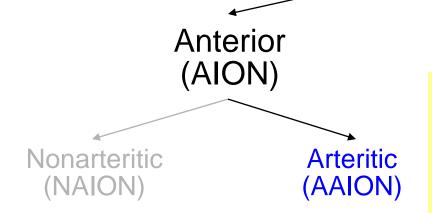


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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Posterior

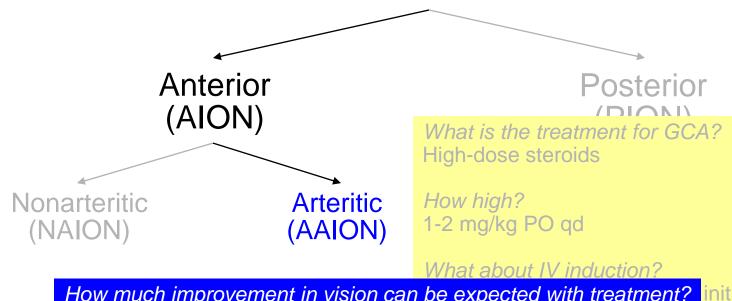
What is the treatment for GCA? High-dose steroids

How high? 1-2 mg/kg PO qd

What about IV induction?
Many authorities recommend initiating treatment with megadose IV steroids



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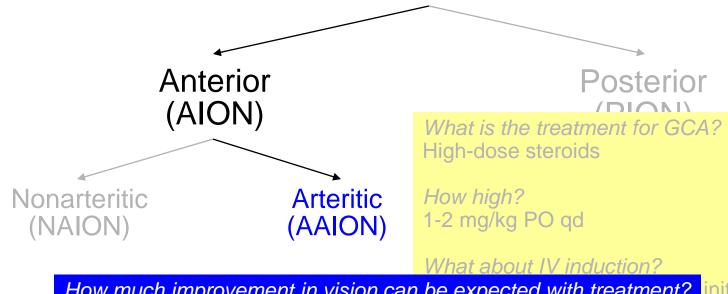


How much improvement in vision can be expected with treatment?

initiating steroids



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

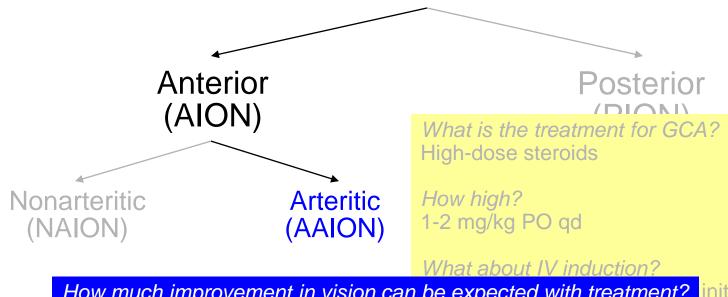


How much improvement in vision can be expected with treatment? Little, if any

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



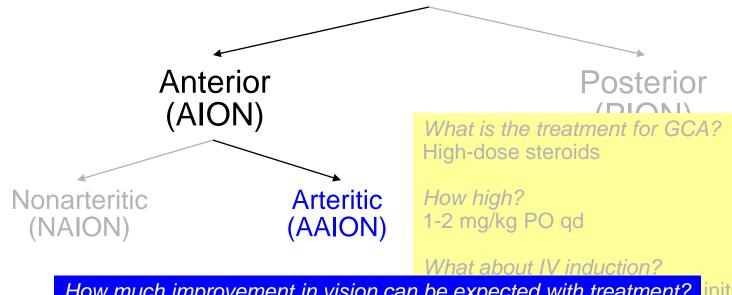
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What is the purpose of treatment, then?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



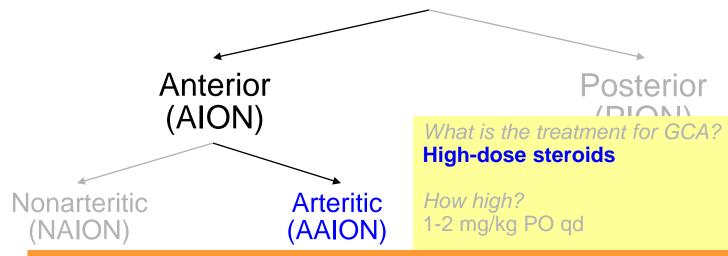
How much improvement in vision can be expected with treatment? Little, if any

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What is the purpose of treatment, then? To prevent vision loss in the fellow eye



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

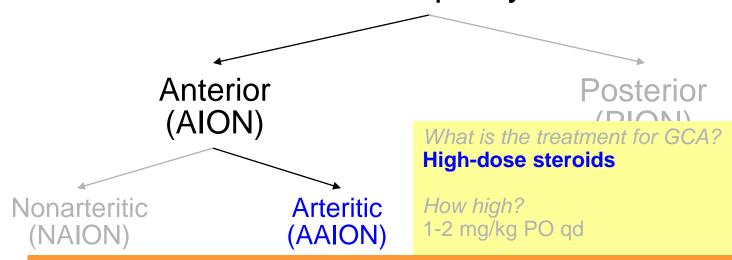


How long must the pt remain on high-dose steroids?

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

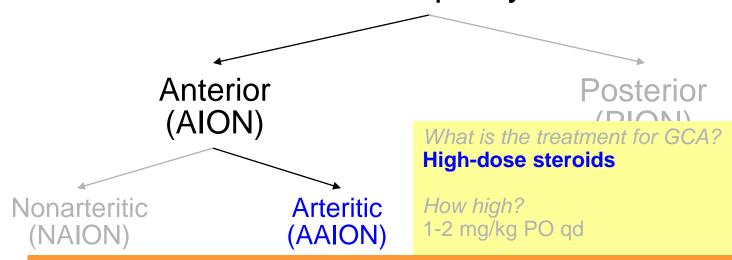


How long must the pt remain on high-dose steroids?
Until the ESR and CRP have normalized, at which point steroid tapering can begin

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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



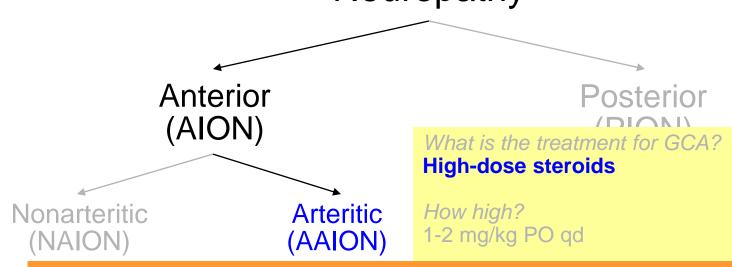
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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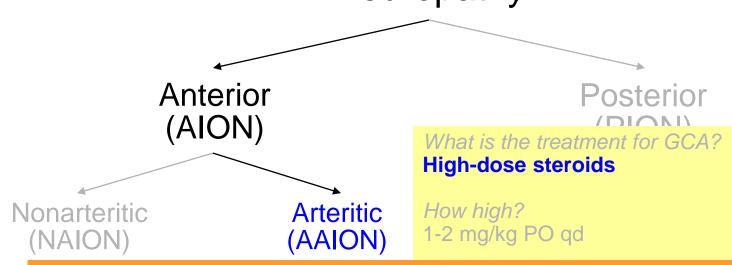
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By monitoring the ESR and CRP—if they stay low, the steroid dose can be reduced







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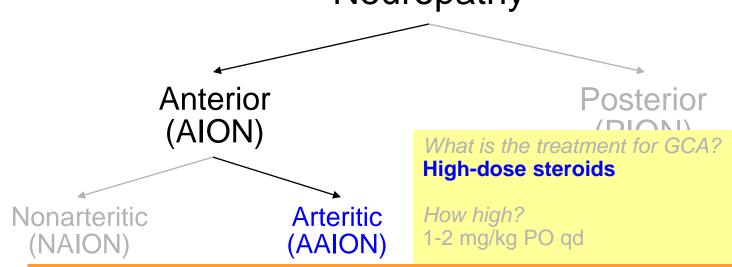
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How long must low-dose steroid therapy be continued?



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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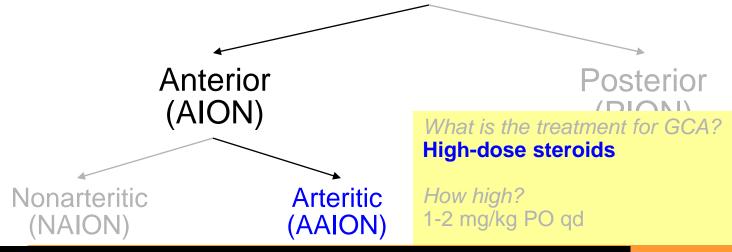
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



So if stopping steroids is controversial, why not just continue them indefinitely?

can begin

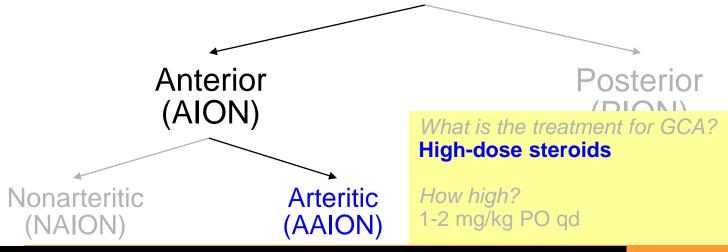
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be reduced

Trow long must low-dose steroid therapy be continued:



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



So if stopping steroids is controversial, why not just continue them indefinitely? Because of their horrendous side effects, especially in the elderly population at risk for GCA. Your little old white lady is going to get:

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and subsequently I

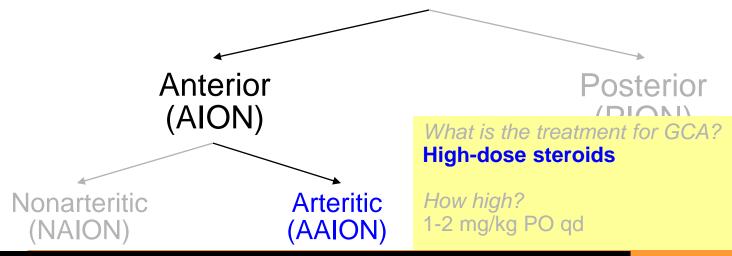
three words

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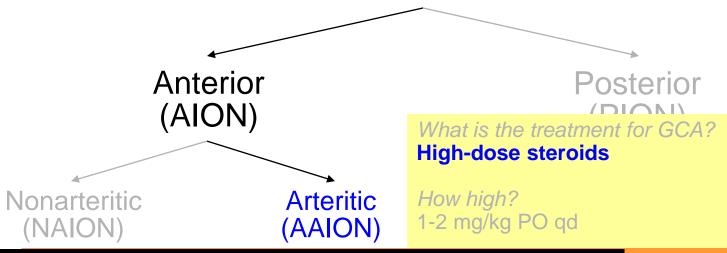
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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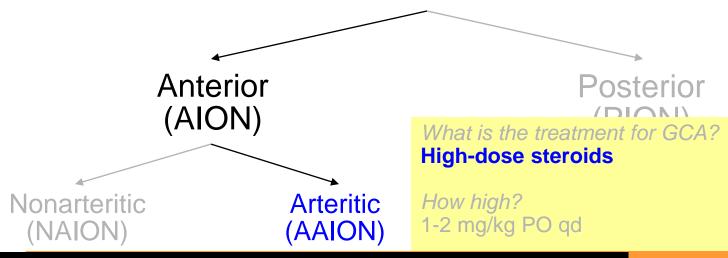
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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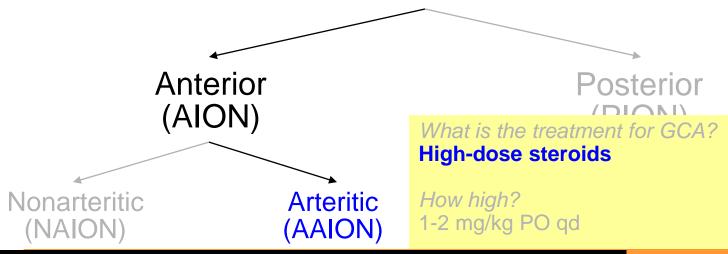
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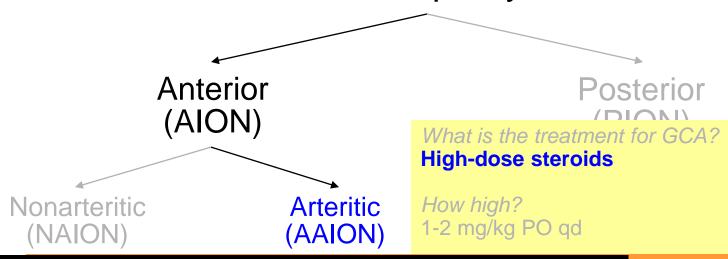
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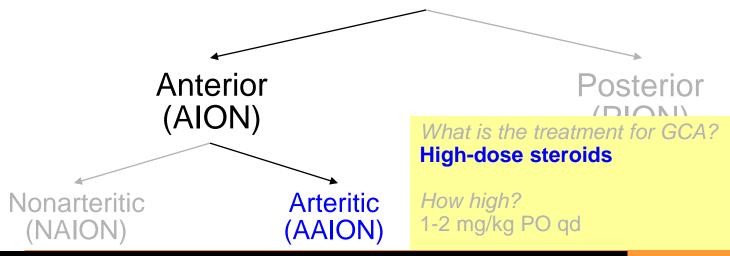
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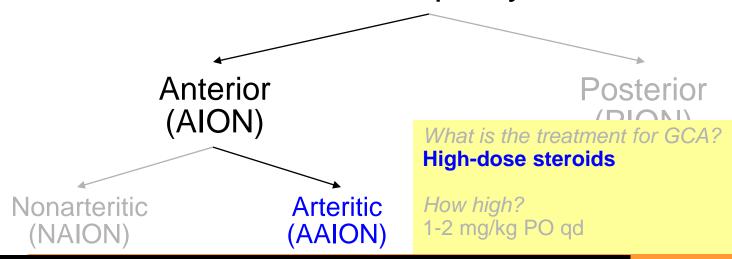
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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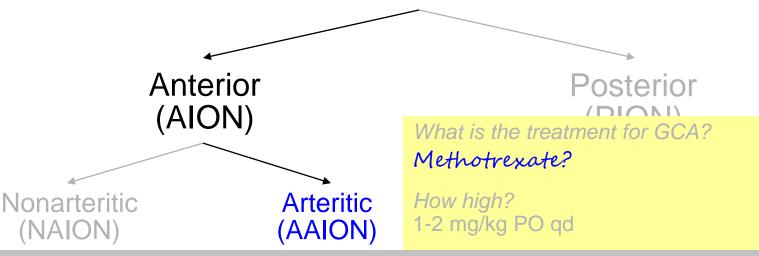
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

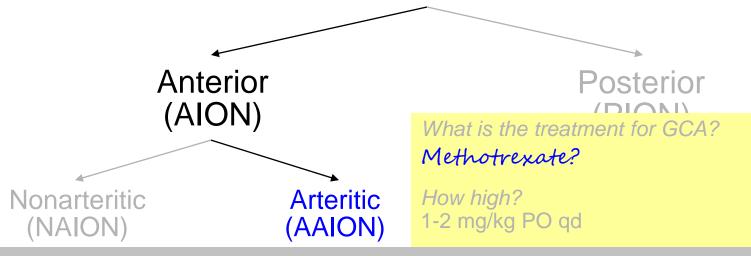


Why not avoid these problems via steroid-sparing immunosuppressive therapy, eg, methotrexate (MTX)?

Trow rong must low-dose steroid therapy be continued:



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy

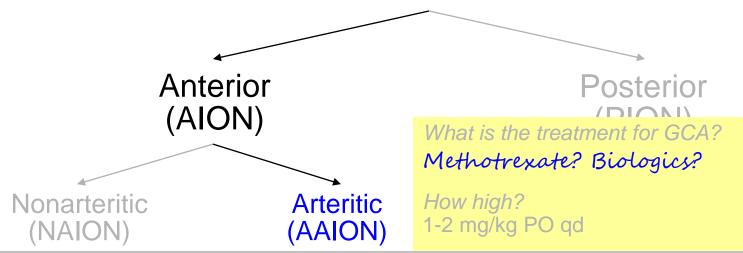


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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



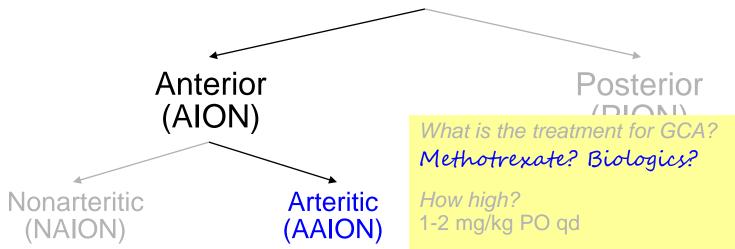
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Trow long must low-dose steroid therapy be continued.



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



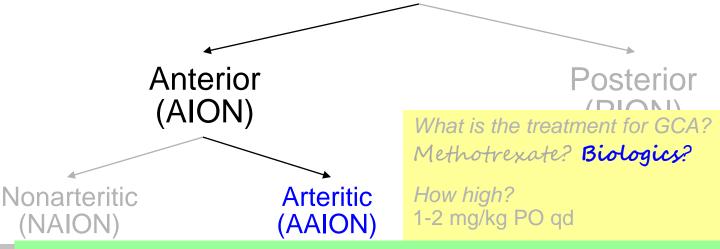
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An interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor antagonist (tocilizumab) is FDA approved for treating GCA.

Trow long must low-dose steroid therapy be continued:



Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



Why not What is the role of tocilizumab in the management of GCA?

MTX)?

MTX see appropria

OK, how

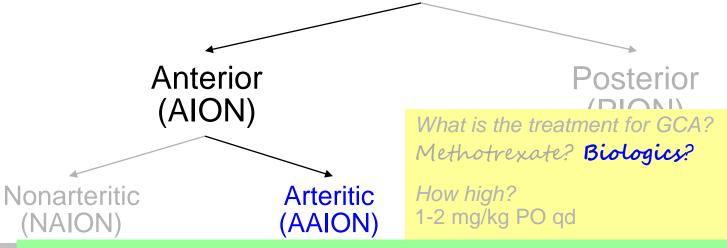
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Ischemic Optic Neuropathy



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appropria

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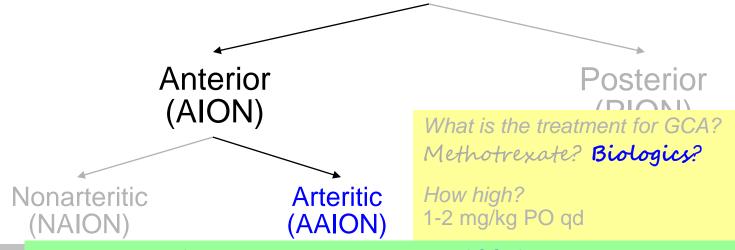
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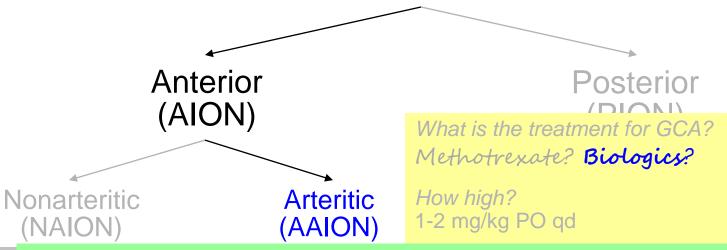
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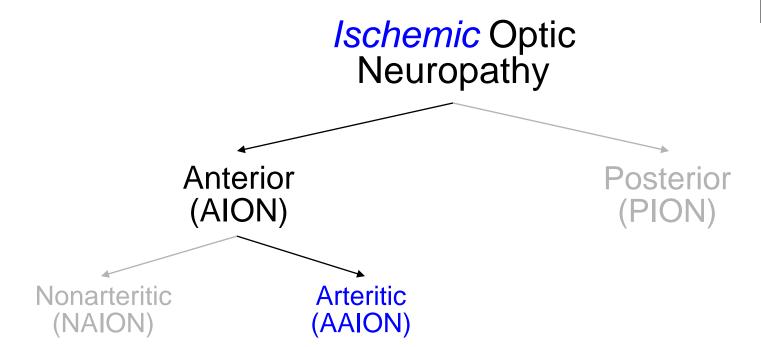
Can tocilizumab be used as monotherapy for GCA?

OK, how As of this writing, there is no clinical evidence to support such an approach

An interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor antagonict (tocilizumab) D. FDA approved for treating GCA.

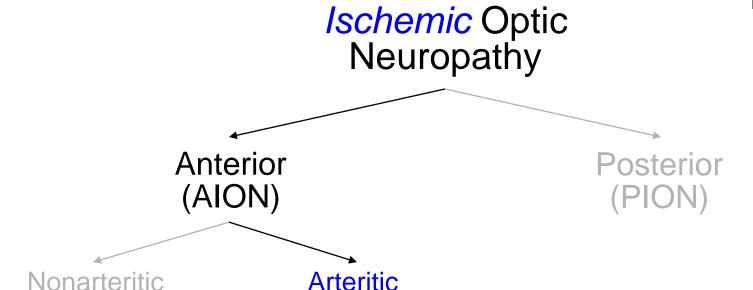
Trow long must low-dose steroid therapy be continued:





If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye?

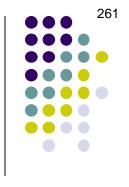


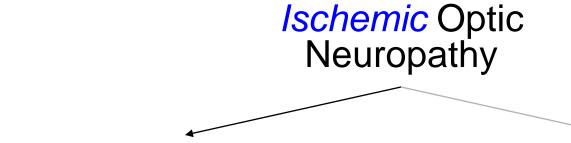


(AAION)

(NAION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about **1/3** will lose vision in the fellow eye





(AION)

Nonarteritic
(NAION)

Arteritic
(AAION)

Anterior

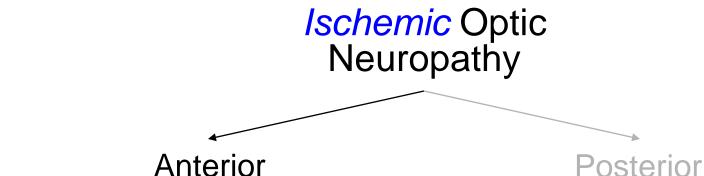
Posterior (PION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about **1/3** will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course?



(PION)



Nonarteritic (AAION)

(AAION)

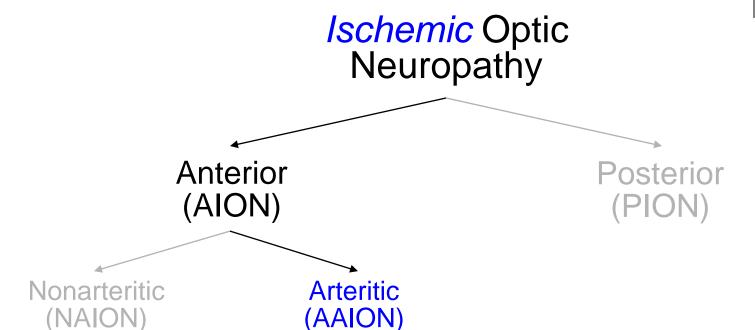
(AION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about 1/3 will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course?

1/3 will lose vision within # and unit | # and unit |



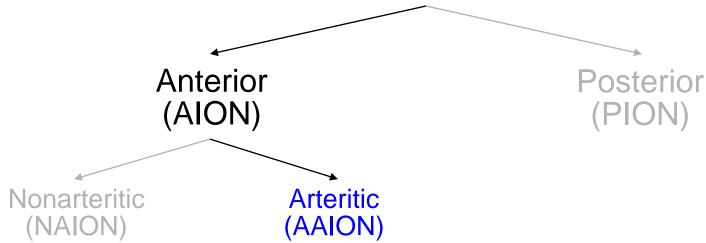


If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about 1/3 will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course? 1/3 will lose vision within **1 day**







If a pt de This is what makes GCA with vision loss an ophthalmic emergency—

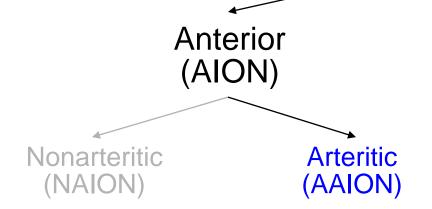
Very hig you are fighting the clock to save vision in the fellow eye!

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course?

1/3 will lose vision within 1 day







Posterior (PION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about 1/3 will lose vision in the fellow eye

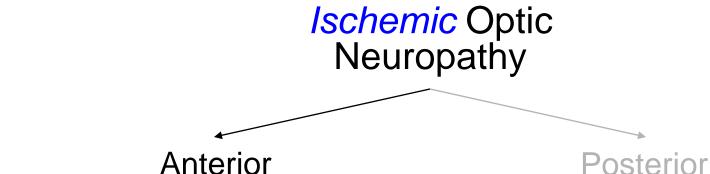
Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course? 1/3 will lose vision within **1 day**

Another 1/3 will lose vision within

and unit



(PION)

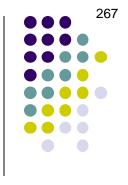


Nonarteritic Arteritic (NAION)

(AION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about **1/3** will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course? 1/3 will lose vision within 1 day
Another 1/3 will lose vision within 1 week





Anterior (AION)

Nonarteritic (AAION)

Posterior (PION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about **1/3** will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course? 1/3 will lose vision within **1 day**

Another 1/3 will lose vision within 1 week

Most of the remaining 1/3 will lose vision within

and unit





Anterior (AION)

Nonarteritic (AAION)

Posterior (PION)

If a pt develops vision loss in one eye from GCA, what is the risk of occurrence in the fellow eye? Very high—if untreated, about **1/3** will lose vision in the fellow eye

Of the 1/3 who will experience fellow-eye involvement, what is the time course? 1/3 will lose vision within 1 day
Another 1/3 will lose vision within 1 week
Most of the remaining 1/3 will lose vision within 1 month