



OCULAR SYPHILIS & NEUROSYPHILIS SCREENING GUIDE

Patients who are suspected of having ocular syphilis or neurosyphilis should be referred for immediate evaluation of these symptoms. Evaluation for ocular syphilis and neurosyphilis symptoms will often require a lumbar puncture.

When referring a patient for evaluation, please communicate to the evaluating provider the need to assess specifically for ocular syphilis and/or neurosyphilis. To facilitate timely diagnosis and treatment, consider giving the patient a copy of the completed *Ocular Syphilis & Neurosyphilis Screening Guide*.

SYMPTOMS OF OCULAR SYPHILIS

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|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Have you recently had a change or blurring in your vision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2) Do you see flashing lights? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3) Do you see spots that move or float by in your field of vision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4) Have you recently had pain or redness in one or both eyes? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Consider evaluation and treatment for ocular syphilis in patients with new changes in vision, including loss of vision, blurring, seeing spots or flashing lights and pain and/or redness in one or both eyes.

SYMPTOMS OF NEUROSYPHILIS

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| 5) Have you recently been having headaches? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6) Have you had new weakness in any part of your body (including your arms, legs or face)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7) Have you had problems walking? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 8) Have you had problems with memory or confusion? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 9) Do you feel (or have you been told) that your personality has changed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Consider evaluation and treatment for neurosyphilis in patients with new-onset of headaches (or headaches that are different from their usual headaches); new and persistent change in personality, memory or judgment; new numbness or weakness in the face, arms or legs; and/or new gait incoordination.

To receive technical assistance with treatment guidelines, ocular syphilis, neurosyphilis or specific case consultations, please contact the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Center for STI Prevention at DMMH.STIClinicalConsult@maryland.gov or (410) 767-6690.

General information about syphilis can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/syphilis/>.