



New Glaucoma Support Group

Newsletter 1

November 2011

New support group for Hull and the East Riding

A new support group for people with Glaucoma has been set up in Hull and the East riding. An inaugural meeting in November was addressed by Mr Craig Burnett, the glaucoma consultant at Hull Royal Infirmary. The group was founded by Dr. David Pattison, who was recently diagnosed with Glaucoma. Dr. Pattison looked around for support after his diagnosis and, finding there was no local group, he decided to establish one. The group has since been offered assistance by Hull's HERIB and the International Glaucoma Association.

Seeing It My Way

Seeing It My Way is a major new UK wide initiative supported by the UK Vision Strategy Advisory Group. Our new Glaucoma Support Group will adopt many of the outcomes initiated by UKVSAG:

- that you have someone to talk to
- that you understand your eye condition and the registration process
- that you can access information
- that you can make the best use of the sight you have
- that you know where to access and receive support

Next meeting

A second meeting will take place at HERIB, Beech Holme, Beverley Road, Hull, HU5 1NF, on Friday 27th January 2012 at 11am. The speaker will be Mr. David Harris from the International Glaucoma Association. A buffet lunch will be provided for £2. Come along and help us plan future sessions. Ring 01482 342297 for further information.

Frequently asked questions

How common is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma affects about 5% of those over the age of 65 and 10% of those over the age of 80. In other words about 1 in 20 people over the age of 65 are affected with the condition, so it is fairly common. Glaucoma is common in some communities, for example in those from West Africa and those from the Caribbean. Glaucoma is commoner in some families, and many patients with Glaucoma have family members with the condition. Many genes have been identified as causing Glaucoma, however the condition is not passed on directly and often skips a generation. If you have a brother or sister with the condition then the risk of developing Glaucoma yourself is increased significantly.

Can Glaucoma be avoided?

If the condition is diagnosed and treated early enough sight loss can be avoided. Regular check ups with an optician are recommended. For those who have been affected the right kind of support can help to maintain a full and independent life