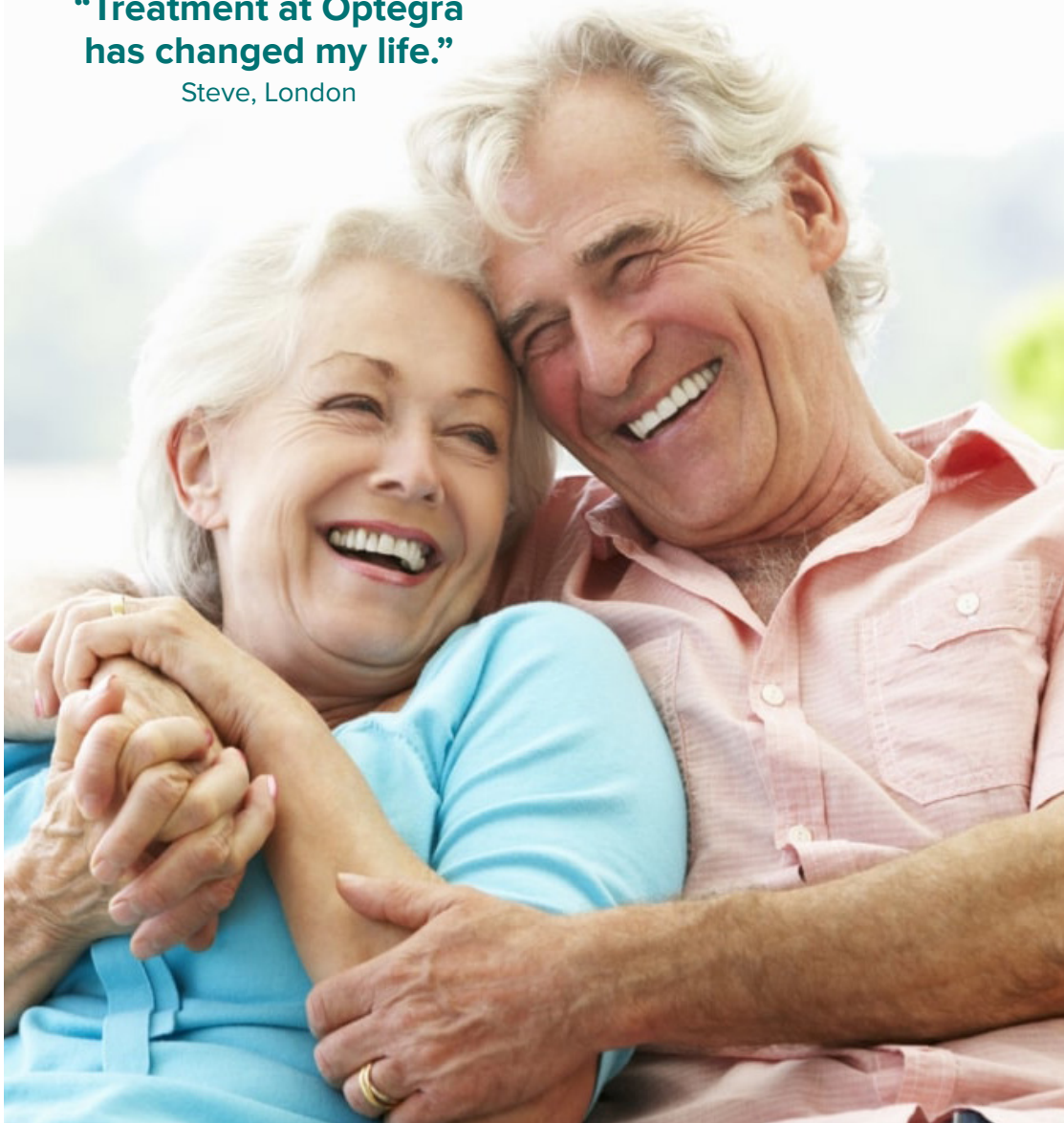


**“Treatment at Optegra
has changed my life.”**

Steve, London



You have been referred urgently to the clinic at Optegra Eye Health Care for an assessment of your eyes.

Common questions related to your appointment are below.



**Why have I
been referred to
Optegra?**



The examination you had at your optician suggests you may have a problem affecting your macula; the central part of the retina which is responsible for detail and colour vision.

To assess the significance and advise on treatment if necessary you require some further tests and review by a retina specialist.

**Why have I been
referred urgently?**



Some conditions affecting the macula can be sight threatening if review and treatment is delayed. We therefore aim to see you as soon as possible after we receive your referral. It is important that you make every effort to attend the appointment offered.

If you do have a condition requiring treatment further damage to sight could occur through delays which may not be recoverable at a later stage.

What can I expect during my appointment?

You will have several tests including a sight test that measures how well you see and an eye pressure check. Your pupil will be dilated and special photographic scans taken of your eyes.

These will be reviewed by a specialist and you will then see a member of staff who will discuss the results and advise you on the best course of action.

Will I receive any treatment on the day?

Referral to the clinic does not mean treatment is definitely required. Your optician may be referring you to be thorough and to get a second opinion from a retina specialist. In many cases no treatment is required. In that case, you will either be discharged with advice or a follow-up appointment made for further review and monitoring.

In some cases treatment is advised. The most common reason is a condition called wet age-related macular degeneration. This is a potentially sight threatening condition in which blood vessels grow under the retina which can bleed or cause the retina to swell. Bleeding in the retina can also occur due to other problems include blockage of the blood circulation in the retina.

The specialist who sees you will advise if you are affected by any condition which requires treatment. The most effective treatment for most urgent macular problems is a chemical which is administered as an injection in the eye. The specific drug used will depend on the specialist assessment of your eye condition.

Is treatment painful?

If you need treatment this will be done by a specialist nurse. To stop you feeling pain, anaesthetic eye drops are used which effectively numb your eye before treatment.

What do I need to bring?

Please bring an up-to-date list of current medication you are taking and a list of any allergies. If you have a previous history of eye problems please bring any information you have related to these.

How long will the appointment take and can I drive to my appointment?

In order to do the necessary tests on your eyes, drops are used to dilate your pupils. These may affect your vision for a few hours so you are advised against driving to the appointment.

The appointment duration will depend on your diagnosis and need for treatment. We recommend allowing up to three hours to fully complete a first appointment if treatment is included on the day.

Up to three hours to fully complete a first appointment

