UK NSC screening for glaucoma in adults recommendation

Following a review of the evidence against strict criteria, the UK NSC does not currently recommend introducing a national screening programme for glaucoma in adults.

Glaucoma is a condition that can lead to blindness. Open angle glaucoma (OAG) is the most common type of the disease. Older people are more likely to develop OAG. This condition also runs in families and is more often found in people of black African or black-Caribbean origin.

A national screening programme would aim to find people who have OAG at an early stage, so treatment can be started as soon as possible.

Key findings supporting the UK NSC recommendation

The UK NSC cannot recommend population screening for glaucoma in adults. There was not enough new evidence to change the UK NSC recommendation. This is because:

- it is still not clear if the tests which are available are accurate enough to use in a screening programme
- no new evidence showing that a screening programme will help people with OAG more than usual health care was found

The UK NSC regularly reviews its recommendations on screening for different conditions in the light of new research evidence becoming available.

To find out more about the UK NSC’s screening for glaucoma recommendation, please visit:

legacy.screening.phe.org.uk/glaucoma

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises ministers and the NHS in the 4 UK countries about all aspects of screening and supports implementation of screening programmes.

Find out more about the UK National Screening Committee at www.gov.uk/uknsc. The UK NSC evidence review process is described at www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-nsc-evidence-review-process and a list of all UK NSC recommendations can be found at legacy.screening.nhs.uk/recommendations

The UK NSC secretariat is hosted by Public Health England (www.gov.uk/phe).