



Oxford Ataxia clinic, John Radcliffe Hospital

The Oxford Ataxia Clinic

The clinic is currently held once a month but we hope the frequency will be increased. It is a specialised service for all patients (adults and children) with a suspected or confirmed cerebellar ataxia. Referrals need to be made via the GP.

The clinic provides:

- 60 minute appointments for new patients, 45 minutes for follow-up
- Continuity of care – patients see the same Neurologist
- Multidisciplinary Team including a Consultant Clinical Geneticist
- Access to physiotherapy and speech and language therapy
- Streamlined referrals to other specialists already interested in the ataxias, as appropriate. Named specialists in the following disciplines see ataxia patients for the clinic:
 - Cardiology
 - Neurophysiology
 - Neuro-ophthalmology
 - Medical retina
 - Orthopaedics
- Support both during and between clinic visits via the Specialist Ataxia Nurse
- Close links with primary, community and secondary care services for shared care and education on the ataxias
- Establishment of an ataxia database, facilitating research
- Validation of new genetic tests as they emerge

Involvement in Research:

The team at the Oxford Ataxia Clinic is also involved in various research projects. Patients who are interested may therefore have the opportunity to take part in research. The aim of many of these projects is to improve assessments of patients for future clinical trials.

Current projects include:

- A large study to test for a large number of ataxia genes through high throughput sequencing, allowing much wider availability of

genetic testing This study has now been introduced into the NHS as a diagnostic service (Dr Andrea Nemeth, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford)

- Quantitative motor assessments of gait in patients with ataxia (collaboration with Professor Helen Dawes and team, Oxford Brookes University)
- Development of an ataxia clinical database

The Clinic Team:

The clinic team includes a Neurologist, Dr George Tofaris and a Clinical Geneticist, Dr Andrea Nemeth.

Anyone interested in getting an appointment to attend the Ataxia clinic should ask their doctor or neurologist for a referral. Referrals are accepted from GPs and neurologists throughout the UK. All patients are seen jointly.

Contact details for referrals:

**Dr George Tofaris
Department of Neurology
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX39DU
Tel: 01865 231 295**

**Dr Andrea H Nemeth
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Churchill Hospital, Oxford, OX37LJ
Secretary: Dawn Eeley, Telephone 01865 226024**