

Giant cell arteritis: ● important possible late complications: [blindness](#), [stroke](#), [thoracic aortic aneurysms](#), and aortic dissections

Complications of [steroid](#) therapy occur in ≈ 50% of patients. Most are not life threatening, and include [vertebral compression fractures](#) in ≈ 36%, [peptic ulcer disease](#) in ≈ 12%, proximal [myopathy](#), cataracts, exacerbation of diabetes...

30–50% of patients will have spontaneous exacerbations of [giant cell arteritis](#) (especially during the first 2 years) regardless of the [corticosteroid](#) regimen.

Survival parallels that of the general population. The onset of [blindness](#) after initiation of steroid therapy is rare.

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