

## CURE OM advances research, patient support and education

**CURE OM-FUNDED RESEARCH** works to accelerate the development of effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for OM. Visit [www.cureom.org](http://www.cureom.org).

**ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS** The MRF's CURE OM initiative partners with Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) Hospital's Oncology Social Work Program to offer virtual support groups to the patients and caregivers in the primary and metastatic ocular melanoma (OM) community. Visit [www.melanoma.org/om-support-groups](http://www.melanoma.org/om-support-groups).

**THE MRF BUDDY PROGRAM** provides patients and caregivers with peer-to-peer emotional support from someone who has "been there." Learn more at [www.melanoma.org/buddyprogram](http://www.melanoma.org/buddyprogram).

**THE CURE OM FORUM** is an online bulletin board exclusively devoted to people with ocular melanoma, caregivers and loved ones. Visit [www.melanoma.org/ocular-melanoma-forum](http://www.melanoma.org/ocular-melanoma-forum).

**THE MRF CLINICAL TRIAL FINDER** is a free, confidential, personalized service that helps people with melanoma, including OM, find emerging treatments. Visit [www.melanoma.org/clinical-trial-finder](http://www.melanoma.org/clinical-trial-finder).

**CURE OM** offers free symposia, webinars and educational materials for patients with OM and the people who support them. Learn also about CURE OM's regular in-person conferences and "Meet & Greets" at [www.melanoma.org/cure-om-events](http://www.melanoma.org/cure-om-events).

## Your Support Makes a Difference

You can help the MRF support people battling OM and researchers searching for new treatments. CURE OM has several ways to get involved:

- **DONATE!** Help CURE OM make a difference for the 2,000 Americans who are newly diagnosed each year and the thousands more living with this disease by making a tax-deductible donation. Email [donate@melanoma.org](mailto:donate@melanoma.org).
- **ATTEND OR HOST AN EVENT!** Find out about upcoming events near you. Visit [www.melanoma.org/get-involved/calendar](http://www.melanoma.org/get-involved/calendar).
- **SWIM, BIKE, WALK OR RUN** to raise awareness and funds for ocular melanoma research. Email [events@melanoma.org](mailto:events@melanoma.org).
- **VOLUNTEER!** Want to make a big difference while investing only a little bit of your time? Find ways to get involved as a volunteer for the MRF's CURE OM initiative. Email [volunteer@melanoma.org](mailto:volunteer@melanoma.org).

Stay up-to-date on CURE OM's programs and support resources by signing up for the e-newsletter, *Eye on OM*. Email [cureom@melanoma.org](mailto:cureom@melanoma.org) to join.

**"CURE OM has been at the forefront of educating patients, providing support, and catalyzing and funding innovative research on ocular melanoma. To date, over \$1.5 million dollars has been awarded in peer-reviewed research grants to leading researchers. When patients and researchers asked for a patient registry, CURE OM responded and is building the registry with the help of a patient-centered working group. As an 11.5-year survivor, I have seen major advancement in the field and CURE OM has played a leading role."**

— Anne Marie Montijo,  
CURE OM Steering Committee Member

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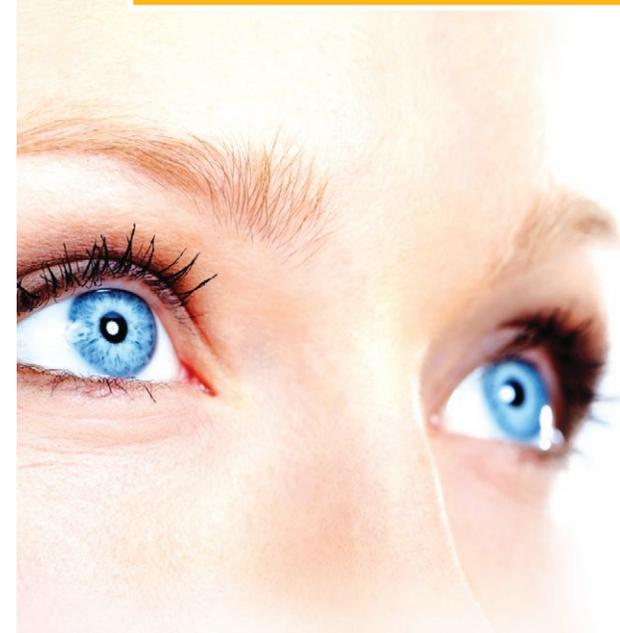
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CURE OCULAR MELANOMA

## CURE OM

Setting our eyes on a cure  
for ocular melanoma



**CURE OM**  
(Community United for Research  
and Education of Ocular Melanoma)

An initiative of the Melanoma Research Foundation to enhance awareness and education about ocular melanoma (OM). CURE OM works to accelerate research to find new and effective treatments for the disease.

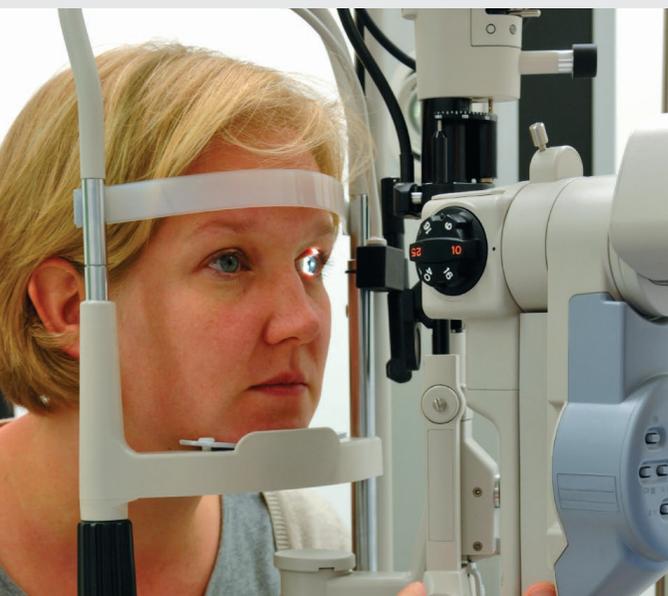
## What is Ocular Melanoma?

Ocular melanoma (OM), or melanoma of the eye, is the most common primary eye cancer in adults and the second most common type of melanoma, with around 2,000 new cases each year in the United States. Ocular melanoma, also called uveal melanoma, can occur in any of the three layers of the uvea: the choroid, the ciliary body or the iris.

Like other melanomas, OM begins in melanocytes, the cells that produce the pigment melanin. Ocular melanoma is a particularly dangerous form of melanoma and accounts for approximately 5% of all melanoma cases. The disease will spread from the eye to other organs in approximately half of people with ocular melanoma. Currently no known cure for metastatic ocular melanoma exists.

### CURE OM'S MISSION:

- Accelerate research to develop effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for ocular melanoma
- Improve the lives of people affected by ocular melanoma by creating systems and programs to provide education and support
- Advocate for the needs of the ocular melanoma community



## Diagnosed with OM?

### HERE ARE SOME QUICK TIPS:

- **Choose a specialist who regularly treats OM.**  
Find a physician and treatment team who have experience treating ocular melanoma to ensure you have the most informed and up-to-date care. For a list of specialists who treat OM, visit [www.cureom.org](http://www.cureom.org).
- **Know what you're up against.**  
Advances in research allow doctors to predict the aggressiveness of an eye tumor. Talk to your specialist about your options, especially if your primary eye tumor has not yet been treated.
- **Be your own advocate.**  
Treatment guidelines currently do not exist for follow-up frequency or type of care once the tumor in the eye has been treated. Being educated on the latest research and treatment options enables you to work with your treatment team to identify the follow-up option that is best for you.



### CONNECT WITH THE OM COMMUNITY

and access important education and treatment information:

Visit [www.CUREOM.org](http://www.CUREOM.org) to connect with others and get the latest news related to ocular melanoma.

[www.facebook.com/cureom](https://www.facebook.com/cureom)

[www.twitter.com/mrfcureom](https://www.twitter.com/mrfcureom)

CURE OM Forum: [www.melanoma.org/cure-om-forum](http://www.melanoma.org/cure-om-forum)

## CURE OM Funds Critically Important Research

People battling OM urgently need more treatment options. No treatments for metastatic OM have been FDA approved. Many people with OM choose to enter clinical trials, where they're able to access cutting-edge treatments. Participating in clinical trials contributes to research advancements and may improve lives for others facing OM as well.

Researchers are learning more about the genetics of OM, allowing them to explore new and promising treatments. The MRF offers grants to researchers through the CURE OM initiative in order to speed the pace of discovery. Continuous support of research is the only way to achieve the advances patients need.

By funding this critical research, the MRF's CURE OM initiative is accelerating treatment development to bring new therapies to people with OM.

To learn more about CURE OM-funded research, visit [www.melanoma.org/cure-om-research](http://www.melanoma.org/cure-om-research).

The MRF's Clinical Trial Finder helps people battling ocular melanoma search for cutting-edge clinical trials.

