

## CURE OM PROVIDES 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).

**THE MRF HELPLINE**, staffed by professional oncology social workers with training in OM, provides counseling and practical help. Please call **1-877-MRF-6460 (1-877-673-6460)** Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Eastern Time or visit [www.melanoma.org/helpline](http://www.melanoma.org/helpline).

**THE MRF PHONE BUDDY PROGRAM** provides patients and caregivers with non-professional emotional support from someone who has “been there.” Learn more at [www.melanoma.org/phone-buddy](http://www.melanoma.org/phone-buddy).

**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 [MilesforMelanoma@melanoma.org](mailto:MilesforMelanoma@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.

*“I am an 11-year survivor of metastatic ocular melanoma. I am very grateful for the advances in research, treatment options, education and support programs which have been accelerated because of the Melanoma Research Foundation's CURE OM initiative – they are leading the advances and momentum in OM!”*

– Esther Damaser, PhD

Melanoma Research Foundation  
1411 K St. NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005  
(800) 673-1290  
[cureom@melanoma.org](mailto:cureom@melanoma.org)  
[www.cureom.org](http://www.cureom.org)



## 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. CURE OM works to accelerate research to find new and effective treatments for the disease and advocate for the OM community.

## 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 5–12% of all melanoma cases. The disease will spread from the eye to other organs in approximately half of people with ocular melanoma, so ongoing follow-up with your physicians is important. 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:

- **See a specialist who regularly treats OM.**  
If you're seeing a physician who rarely (if ever) sees OM, you may not be getting the best, most 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.

## 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 may improve lives and contribute to research advancement.

Researchers recently uncovered the underlying genetic causes of ocular melanoma, 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 research, the MRF can help bring treatments to people with OM more quickly.

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.

### CONNECT TO 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](http://www.facebook.com/cureom)

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

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

