



Anterior Uveitis (Iritis)

Patient Information Leaflet

What is Anterior Uveitis?

Uveitis is an inflammatory condition of the iris or iris and ciliary body.

Signs and Symptoms

Include:

- Red, sore eye
- Small pupil
- Sensitivity to light
- Blurred or reduced vision.

What causes it?

In most cases there is no cause found and it is presumed to be an autoimmune condition. In some cases it may be related to:

- Injury
- Viral infections
- rheumatic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis
- complications of other eye conditions

It usually responds well to treatment although some people may get recurrent episodes over many years.

What is the Treatment?

Treatment is with steroid eye drops and drops to dilate (enlarge) the pupil. The steroid drops reduce inflammation and the dilating drops reduce the pain in

the eye and prevent complications such as the iris sticking to the lens of the eye. The dilating drops may cause a temporary blurring of the vision whilst they are being used until after they are discontinued.

It may be necessary to continue using the drops for several weeks or longer. It is important to use the drops as directed by the doctor/nurse, as stopping the drops early may cause the symptoms to return and increase the risk of complications.

In severe cases an injection into the space surrounding the eye may be needed.

Repeated visits to the hospital may be required in order to check on the progress of treatment and to see if any complications are occurring.

Further Tests

If an underlying cause of recurrent anterior uveitis is not already known it may be necessary to perform tests in the outpatients department. These might include blood tests, chest x-rays, photographs and scans.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. If anything is unclear, or you have any other questions you would like to ask, then please do ask the nurse/doctor.

Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Emergency Department

01 7088535

Revision History

Ref No.	Version No.	Date Approved	Change	Section No.	Approved by
PIL 053	1	March 2014	New Information Leaflet	-	Hospital Management Group