

# IRITIS

(Uveitis)



## BASIC INFORMATION

### DESCRIPTION

Redness and soreness (inflammation) of the iris. The iris is the colored part of the eye. The disorder is also called uveitis.

### FREQUENT SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

*May start suddenly:*

- Severe eye pain.
- Photophobia (sensitivity to light).
- Eye redness.
- Smaller pupil in the affected eye (sometimes).
- Tears.
- Blurred vision.

*Gradual onset:*

- Eye pain.
- Photophobia.
- Floating spots in the field of vision.
- Blurred vision.

### CAUSES

The cause is unknown for most people. It is sometimes one of the symptoms of a disease that affects other parts of the body, such as arthritis. Iritis may sometimes be confused with pink eye (conjunctivitis).

### RISK INCREASES WITH

- Ankylosing spondylitis.
- Inflammatory bowel disease.
- Reiter's syndrome.
- Arthritis.
- Behçet syndrome.
- Herpes infections.
- Lyme disease.
- Injuries.
- Sarcoidosis.
- Candidal infection.
- Syphilis.
- Histoplasmosis.
- Toxoplasmosis.
- Tuberculosis.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Cannot be prevented at present.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Vision can usually be preserved with prompt treatment. Recovery takes 6 to 8 weeks. It sometimes depends on the disorder that is associated with iritis.

### POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

- Glaucoma.
- Cataracts.
- Permanent or partial vision loss.



## DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

### GENERAL MEASURES

- Iritis can be diagnosed by your eye care provider using special equipment to look into the eye. Other medical tests may be needed to help diagnose any health problem that is associated with iritis.
- Treatment goals are to reduce pain and redness, prevent complications, and treat other health problems that are diagnosed.
- Wear dark glasses, including indoors, until treatment is complete.

### MEDICATIONS

- Eyedrops (mydriatics) that dilate the pupil and prevent scarring. You may need to use eyedrops for a long time.
- Oral cortisone drugs or cortisone eyedrops to reduce inflammation may be prescribed.
- Drugs for other medical problems may be prescribed.

### ACTIVITY

No limits.

### DIET

No special diet.



## NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF

- You or a family member has symptoms of iritis, either sudden or gradual. Call immediately.
- Vision changes in any way.
- New, unexplained symptoms develop. Drugs used in treatment may produce side effects.

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Special notes:

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