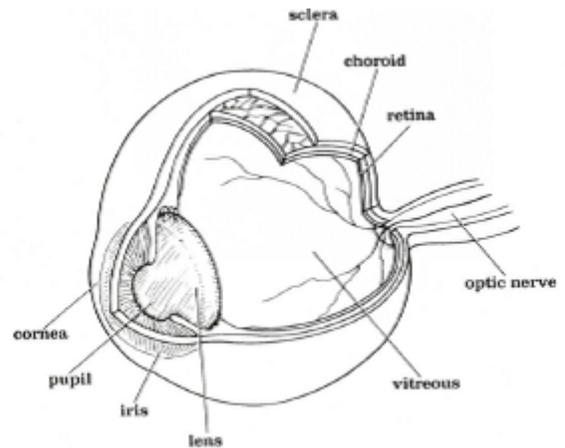


Posterior Uveitis

This material will help you understand posterior uveitis, its causes, and how it may be treated.

What is posterior uveitis?

Uveitis occurs when the uvea becomes inflamed. The **uvea** is the middle layer of the eye behind the lens. Posterior uveitis is a form of uveitis that affects the back part of the uvea, also called the **choroid** (see picture on right). Though it is named for its impact on the posterior uvea, this condition often involves the retina and vitreous, as well.



Drawing courtesy of the Collaborative Ocular Melanoma Study Group

The **retina** is the visual layer in the back of eye which captures images and then sends them to the brain. The **vitreous** is the clear gel that fills the back of the eyeball. When the uvea is inflamed, cells collect in the choroid, the retina, or float around in the vitreous. These cells can cause blurry vision or floaters.

Posterior uveitis develops a lot more slowly than other types of uveitis and may last for several years.

What causes posterior uveitis?

The cause of posterior uveitis varies. Posterior uveitis is most commonly caused by a systemic condition (those that affect the whole body) such as

rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or sarcoidosis. Some infections such as toxoplasmosis, shingles, or herpes simplex may also lead to posterior uveitis. In many cases, the cause may be unknown.

How is posterior uveitis treated?

Posterior uveitis may scar the inside of eye and lead to other conditions that can cause vision loss. For this reason it should be treated as soon as possible. Treatment for posterior uveitis usually depends on the cause. Your doctor will likely prescribe steroid pills to reduce inflammation. In more severe cases, injection of steroid into the eye is necessary. If your case is caused by a condition affecting your whole body, then your doctor will prescribe medicines to treat that condition.

You and your eye doctor will decide the treatment plan that is best for you.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/uveitis.html>



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/uveitis/index.cfm>

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