

This material will help you understand uveitis and what you can do to treat it.

What is uveitis?

Uveitis is inflammation of the uvea, which is the middle layer of the eye. The part of the uvea that is easiest to see is the iris. The iris is the colored part of the eye - the part that is brown, gray, blue or green. When the uvea or the iris become inflamed, inflammatory cells collect and float around the eye. These cells cause you to have blurry vision, make your eye hurt and be very sensitive to light.

What causes uveitis?

Uveitis may occur after an eye trauma or surgery. Some viruses (such as shingles or herpes simplex) and systemic inflammatory diseases (such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or sarcoidosis) can cause uveitis as well. Since some diseases cause uveitis, inform your eye doctor of other health issues you may be experiencing.

However, in most cases, the cause of the disease is unknown. Uveitis most often occurs as an autoimmune disease, where the body's immune system attacks the eye even though there is no infection present.

What are the symptoms of uveitis?

Some of the most common symptoms of uveitis are:

- Redness of the eye
- Light sensitivity
- Floaters (small spots in your line of vision)
- Blurred vision
- Eye pain

How is uveitis treated?

Treatment may include steroid eye drops, injections, or pills. You might also receive eye drops to reduce the pain.

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



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



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

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