

This material will help you understand optic neuritis and how it is treated.

## **What is optic neuritis?**

Optic neuritis is an inflammation of the optic nerve. The optic nerve carries signals from the eye to the brain. The brain interprets the images that you see. When the optic nerve is inflamed, it affects your vision. You may experience symptoms like blurred vision and/or pain with eye movement.

## **What causes optic neuritis?**

Some inflammatory diseases like lupus or Sjögren's can cause optic neuritis. It can also follow a viral infection. Optic neuritis may also be a symptom of multiple sclerosis (MS). In many cases, however, the cause is unknown.

## **How is optic neuritis diagnosed?**

A complete eye exam is necessary to diagnose optic neuritis. As part of this exam, your eye doctor asks you about your medical history and checks your vision. Your doctor also uses a special instrument to look at the optic nerve. You may need other tests like an MRI or blood tests.

## **How is optic neuritis treated?**

Treatment for optic neuritis depends on the underlying cause. Your doctor may prescribe a type of medicine called corticosteroids.

**For more information about optic neuritis, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/optic-neuritis.cfm>

**For more information about multiple sclerosis (MS), scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/>

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Author: Kristin Maurer, MPH candidate  
Reviewers: Lindsey DeLott, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

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