

Intermediate Uveitis

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

What is intermediate uveitis?

Uveitis occurs when the uvea becomes inflamed. The uvea is the middle layer of the eye behind the lens. Intermediate uveitis is a form of uveitis that affects the area in the middle of the uvea (the pars plana). Intermediate uveitis is also sometimes called **pars planitis**. In intermediate uveitis, cells collect and float in the vitreous gel in the back of the eye. These cells can cause you to have blurry vision and cause floaters. Swelling in the macula often occurs, which reduces vision.

Episodes of intermediate uveitis can last between a few weeks to years. The disease usually goes through cycles of getting worse and better.

What causes intermediate uveitis?

The cause of intermediate uveitis is usually unknown. It is more common in young adults. It may also be linked to systemic conditions (those that affect the whole body) such as sarcoidosis, multiple sclerosis, and Crohn's disease.

How is intermediate uveitis treated?

Intermediate uveitis may cause vision loss, so it should be treated as soon as possible. Treatment for intermediate uveitis can vary. Your doctor will likely prescribe steroid medications in the form of pills or injections in or around the eye. This helps reduce the swelling and improve vision. In cases where the

intermediate uveitis is chronic, therapies that suppress the immune system (immunosuppressants) are also sometimes necessary.

You and your 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>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kathleen Koviak, MPH Candidate
Reviewers: Stephen Odaibo, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](http://www.umhs.edu) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/).

Last Revised 02/2015