



Uveitis

What is uveitis?

Uveitis is inflammation inside of the eye. This inflammation can happen in the front of the eye (anterior uveitis) or in the back of the eye (posterior uveitis).

Uveitis affects both kids and adults. It can last for a short time, or can last for a long time. In some people, uveitis happens only once. In others, it can happen many times in their life. Commonly, uveitis happens by itself. Sometimes, though, people have other health problems that also cause them to have uveitis. Your doctor may ask you to get some tests to see if you have other health problems causing uveitis.



EYE WORDS TO KNOW

INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE (IOP)

The pressure inside the eye. IOP depends mostly on how well the drainage system (trabecular meshwork) inside the eye is working.

OPTIC NERVE

The “cable” between the eye and brain. The optic nerve lets the eye send messages to the brain, which allows us to see. In glaucoma, the optic nerve is damaged by eye pressure. Continued damage over time causes loss of vision.

UVEITIS

Inflammation inside the eye

ANTERIOR UVEITIS

Inflammation in the front of the eye (also called iritis)

POSTERIOR UVEITIS

Inflammation in the back of the eye



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Why does uveitis cause glaucoma?

The part of the eye where the fluid in the eye normally drains out of (the trabecular meshwork) can be damaged by inflammation in the eye. When this part is damaged, the fluid doesn't get out of the eye as easily – which causes the eye pressure to go up. High eye pressure can cause damage to the optic nerve (glaucoma). One of the common treatments for uveitis (steroids) can cause IOP to go up as well.

If I have uveitis, what is the chance that I will have glaucoma?

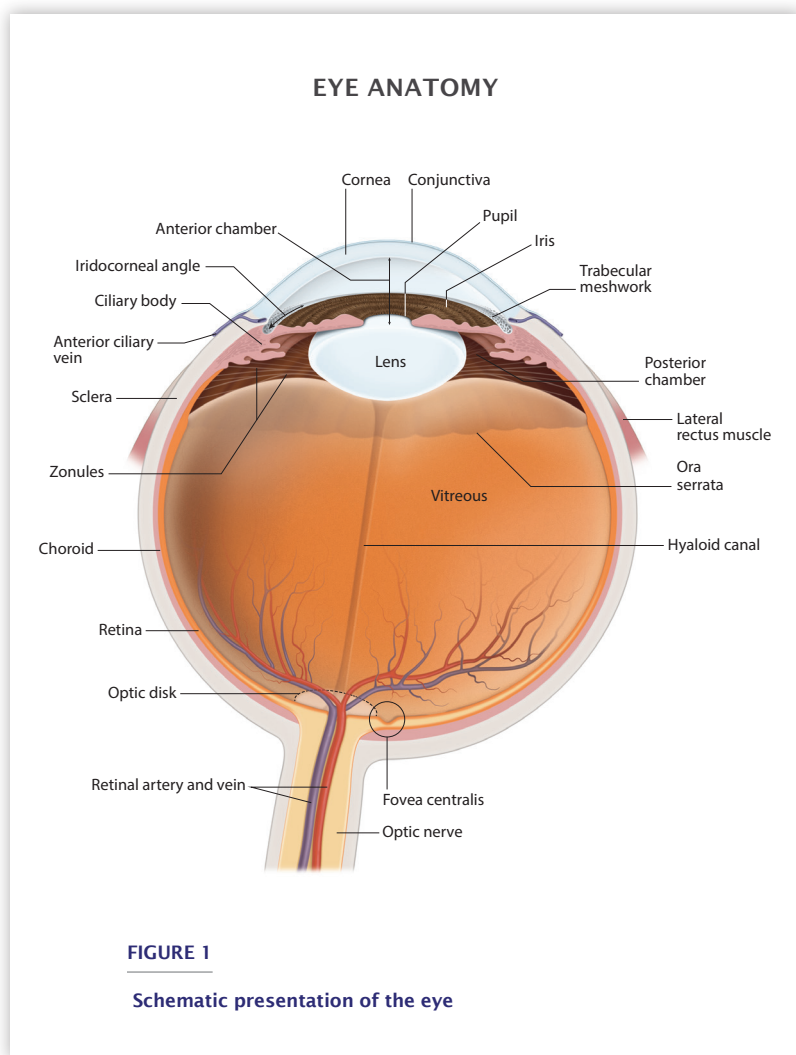
About 10 to 20% of people with uveitis bad enough to be referred to a specialist will have high IOP as well. This risk is higher in people that have long-lasting uveitis.

How would I know if I develop uveitic glaucoma?

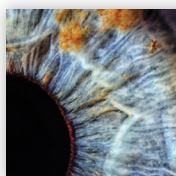
People with uveitic glaucoma may have eye redness, eye pain, headaches, nausea, trouble with lights (either lights seem too bright or haloes around lights), floaters and /or fuzziness in vision. However, some people with uveitic glaucoma may not notice any of these things. As such, an exam with an ophthalmologist is very important – an ophthalmologist can check for high eye pressure and see any inflammation inside of the eye.

How is uveitic glaucoma treated?

If left alone, uveitic glaucoma can cause permanent damage to many parts of the eye, including the drainage area and the optic nerve.



Uveitic glaucoma is treated by getting rid of the inflammation inside of the eye first, and then treating the eye pressure if needed. Treating the inflammation in the eye can be done using medications (drops, shots around the eye and/or pills), and may involve medications to treat health problems causing the inflammation. Lowering the eye pressure may involve using medications (drops and/or pills), laser treatment (to get the drainage area to work better) or surgery (making a new pathway for the fluid to get out of the eye).



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