

ANTERIOR UVEITIS

What is anterior uveitis?

Anterior uveitis is an inflammation of the middle layer of the eye, which includes the iris and adjacent tissue, known as the ciliary body.

Is the disease serious?

If untreated, anterior uveitis can lead to other eye problems and cause permanent damage. It usually responds well to treatment, however, there may be a tendency for the condition to recur.

What causes anterior uveitis?

Anterior uveitis can occur as a result of trauma to the eye, such as a blow or foreign body penetrating the eye. It can also be a complication of other eye disease, or it may be caused by general health problems such as rheumatoid arthritis, rubella and mumps. In many cases, there is no obvious underlying cause.

What are the symptoms of anterior uveitis?

Symptoms may include a red, painful and inflamed eye, blurring of vision, sensitivity to light and a small pupil.

How is anterior uveitis diagnosed?

Since the symptoms of anterior uveitis are similar to those of other eye diseases, we will carefully examine the inside of your eye under bright light and high magnification, to determine the presence and severity of the condition. We may also perform other test procedures and arrange for treatment and investigations.

Does anterior uveitis affect vision?

If untreated, anterior uveitis can affect adjacent eye tissues causing swelling, scarring, the development of glaucoma, cataracts, or retinal oedema, which can lead to loss of vision.

What is the treatment for anterior uveitis?

Usually eyedrops that dilate the pupils and anti-inflammatory drugs are prescribed. Treatment usually takes several days, or up to a few weeks, in some cases. It is important that treatment is given at an early stage in the condition.