

## **Iritis (inflammation of the iris)**

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Iritis is an endogenous inflammation of the inner parts of the eye where the coloured part of the eye becomes inflamed. The onset is usually sudden, involving only one eye. In some patients, the inflammation may recur or become chronic. Iritis is treated with steroid (cortisone) eye drops and pupil-dilating eye drops. Diagnosis is confirmed by microscopic examination by an ophthalmologist.

### **Symptoms**

The most important symptoms are eye redness, pain and sensitivity to light. There is normally no discharge from the eye.

The pupil in the affected eye may be smaller than in the other eye, and the iris appears blurred and grey compared to the healthy eye. In some cases, temporary blurring of vision may occur.

### **Risk factors**

Iritis is associated with rheumatic disorders; for example, iritis is more common in children with rheumatoid arthritis.

Chronic infections that weaken the immune system may predispose to iritis, as may trauma to the eye area.

### **Treatment**

The condition is treated with cortisone eye drops in declining doses. Treatment with eye drops usually continues for a month. During the first week, pupil-dilating eye drops are also used. For the night, cream that contains cortisone is applied.

Alleviation of symptoms is often seen during the first week of treatment. If necessary, more detailed examinations are prescribed by the doctor.

### **Contact information**

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