

## **Patient Information**

### **Anterior Uveitis/Iritis**

### **Eye Unit**

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#### **What is anterior uveitis (iritis)?**

Anterior uveitis (iritis) is an inflammatory condition affecting the front of the eye (around the iris – the coloured part of your eye). One in every three patients will have recurrent attacks. Although it usually affects one eye at time, it can affect both eyes in some cases. Anterior uveitis may be acute or chronic. Acute anterior uveitis may be a painful condition and all uveitis, if left untreated, may affect your vision.

#### **What causes anterior uveitis?**

In over half of patients, no cause can be found. In some patients it is associated with other inflammatory conditions, immune disorders, or infections.

#### **What are the symptoms of acute anterior uveitis?**

You may have an aching and painful red eye, made worse in bright light. Symptoms of anterior uveitis can develop quickly (over a few hours) or more gradually (over a number of days).

#### **What are the symptoms of chronic anterior uveitis?**

In chronic anterior uveitis (iritis), the eye may be pain-free and no longer red. Vision may be blurred or there may be no symptoms at all.

#### **How is anterior uveitis treated?**

Anterior uveitis is treated with eye drops. You are usually given up to three types of drops, but the amount depends on how severe the inflammation is. If you are given a dilation drop, which makes your pupil bigger and relaxes the iris, you may be more sensitive to light and experience blurred vision. This may also affect your ability to drive. The steroid drops will be gradually reduced over a period of time. You should not stop your drops suddenly as this may cause the inflammation to recur.

#### **What do I do if the anterior uveitis recurs?**

If you think you are experiencing a flare up of anterior uveitis, it is important to visit a local optician as soon as possible. Do not start previous treatment until a flare up is confirmed. We have a network of prescribing opticians in the community that can

initiate treatment and monitor you throughout. In particularly severe cases, or if you are experience many recurrences, you may be referred into the hospital eye service.

**For advice or further information:**

Emergency Eye Clinic – Tel 01633 238856  
email: [emergencyeyeclinic.abb@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:emergencyeyeclinic.abb@wales.nhs.uk)

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