

Patient Information

Iritis / Uveitis

Eye Unit

What is iritis / uveitis?

Iritis is an inflammation of the coloured part of the eye (the iris), and sometimes the structures associated with it.

What causes iritis /uveitis?

The precise cause of iritis/uveitis is unknown in approximately 90% of people. The remainder may suffer with other inflammatory disorders of the body.

Will iritis/uveitis recur?

Iritis/uveitis can recur. The frequency of flare-ups will depend on the individual patient from a few months to a few years. It may also occur in either eye.

What treatment will I need?

You will be given steroid eye drops or/and ointment to treat the inflammation. You will also be given drops to enlarge (dilate) the pupil. This prevents the pupil sticking to the lens, and allows the inflamed iris to rest, which reduces the pain and discomfort. Sometimes, due to a dilated pupil the eye can be sensitive to bright light, which can be overcome by wearing sunglasses. A dilated pupil will also cause a degree of blurred vision.

How long do I need to continue the treatment?

The duration and frequency of the treatment will depend on the severity of the inflammation. The treatment will be reduced gradually over a period of time as guided by the doctor or nurse who sees you in the eye clinic. You should not stop using your drops suddenly as this may cause the inflammation to recur.

How often will I need to be seen?

This will also depend on the severity of the inflammation, and how well it responds to the treatment.

What do I do if the iritis/uveitis recurs?

If you experience similar symptoms you should contact your optician or the hospital as soon as possible to make an appointment. Do not start any treatment before being seen in the eye clinic.

Contact numbers:

Urgent Referral Clinic

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm Tel. No:- 01633 – 238856

Personal Notes:-

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**