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Uveitis

What is Uveitis?

Uveitis is a general term for inflammation of the uveal tissues in the eye, including the iris, ciliary body, and choroid. These tissues are responsible for providing the blood supply to the eye and are responsible for providing oxygen and nutrition, maintaining intraocular pressure, and removing metabolic waste products from the eye.

Uveitis is sometimes separated into anterior Uveitis (inflammation of the iris and ciliary body), posterior Uveitis (inflammation of the choroid), or panuveitis (inflammation of all three structure).

Causes of Uveitis include immune-mediated (autoimmune) diseases, infection, tumors or cancer, corneal injuries, or trauma.

What are the common clinical signs?

Clinical signs associated with Uveitis include pain, redness, squinting, eye discharge, cloudiness, light sensitivity, pupil constriction, and potentially vision impairment or loss. The condition can be unilateral or bilateral, and intraocular pressure can be decreased, normal, or increased.

How is Uveitis diagnosed?

A complete ophthalmic examination is necessary to diagnose Uveitis and differentiate it from various other painful ocular conditions. Additional diagnostics are often necessary to help determine the underlying cause of the condition. Complete physical examination, bloodwork including testing for certain infections, and chest x-rays and abdominal ultrasound may be recommended.

Is there treatment for Uveitis?

Treatment for Uveitis involves controlling the inflammation and pain, as well as treating the underlying cause of the problem. Most patients are treated with a few types of eye drops and systemic medications to control Uveitis. Specific medications are sometimes required to address certain infections or inflammatory condition. In many cases, medications may be required for several months to years to maintain ocular health and prevent relapses.