

Iritis

What is Iritis?

Inflammation of the iris (the coloured part of the eye), causing redness and dull pain in and around the eye, and a dislike of bright light. The vision may also become blurred.

What causes Iritis?

Iritis may sometimes be associated with some forms of arthritis or general health problems. For approximately 50% of people however, the cause cannot be identified.

How is Iritis treated?

You will be given drops or ointment to relieve the symptoms, reduce inflammation and prevent complications such as an increase in the pressure inside the eye.

Drops are used to dilate your pupil. Dilating the pupil prevents the inflamed iris sticking to the lens which is behind it. These drops rest the eye and relieve pain.

Using dilating drops will temporarily make you more sensitive to light and your vision blurred, especially for close work. For your comfort dark glasses can be worn.

The clinician will tell you how often to use the drops/ointment and you will be seen in the Outpatient Clinic after about one to two weeks. You will be told when and how you should reduce the drops until the eye is better.

Will it recur?

Iritis may recur and if you feel that this is happening, please contact the **uveitis triage email inbox** rde-tr.exeteriritis@nhs.net . This inbox is monitored from Monday through to Saturday morning.

How long will it last?

A severe attack may take several weeks before it is completely better.

Is Iritis infectious?

It is not infectious, but can occur in both eyes.

Will my vision be permanently affected?

While you are having treatment, the drops will make your vision blurred.

Usually, when the inflammation has subsided, your vision will return to normal. In very severe cases vision may be affected but, if you seek medical advice early and follow the instructions, the risk to your sight is considerably reduced.

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by Royal Devon staff undertaking procedures at the Royal Devon hospitals.

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