Uveitis Overview

Uveitis is inflammation of the uvea. The uvea is the middle layer of the eye and is comprised of the iris, ciliary body, and choroid. Anterior uveitis occurs when the anterior components are inflamed including the iris or ciliary body. Posterior uveitis occurs when there is inflammation of the vitreous, choroid, or retina.



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Characteristics

Uvea
UV-Rays
The uvea is the pigmented layer of the eye. It is protected by the sclera and cornea.

Middle Layer of Eye
Mid-noon Eyes
The uvea is the middle vascular tunic of the eye. It is surrounded by the outer fibrous tunic and contains the inner nervous tunic.

Iris
Iris-Flower
The iris is the opaque contractile diaphragm that regulates the size of the pupil and forms the colored portion of the eye. It contains the sphincter pupillae muscle.

Ciliary Body
Seal-Body
The ciliary body is a part of the eye that includes the ciliary muscle, which controls the shape of the lens; and the ciliary epithelium, which produces the aqueous humor.

Choroid
Oreo
The choroid is the part of the uvea that lies external to the retina. It contains blood vessels and connective tissue, as well as melanin.

Location

Anterior Uveitis
Ant wearing UV-sunglasses
Anterior uveitis is the inflammation of the anterior part of the uvea. The most commonly implicated structures are the iris and ciliary body. Anterior uveitis is associated with autoimmune diseases such as Crohn's disease and ankylosing spondylitis.

Inflammation of Iris or Ciliary Body
Iris-flower and Seal Body in Flames
Inflammation of the iris or ciliary body is termed anterior uveitis.

Posterior Uveitis
Post-Terrier wearing UV-Sunglasses
Posterior uveitis is characterized by inflammation of the Vitreous, Choroid, Retina. Posterior uveitis is significantly rarer than anterior uveitis, and may lead to blindness if untreated.

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Inflammation of Vitreous, Choroid, or Retina

Fit-tree, Oreo, and Red-tin In-Flames

The inflammatory reaction of the vitreous as a result of a disease in the adjacent structures, such as the ciliary body, the choroid, or the retina, causes infiltration of cells into the vitreous.

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