

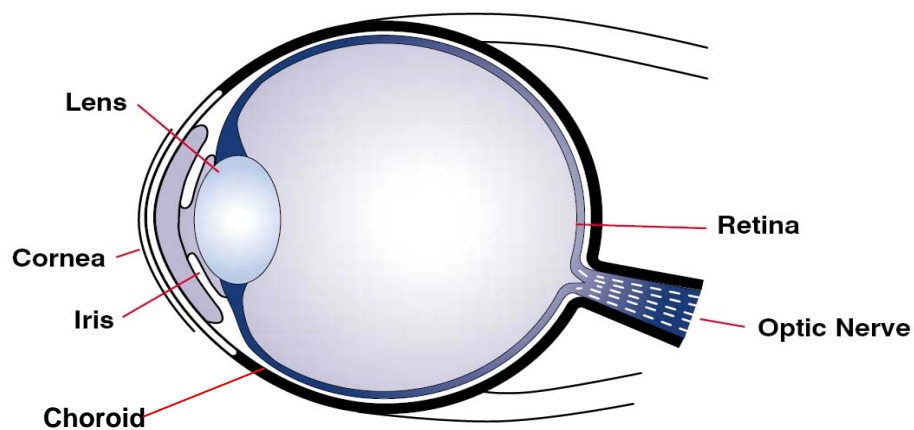
## UVEITIS

What we see is in fact made in the brain. The brain makes sight from signals given to it by the eyes.

### What is the normal structure of the eye?

The eye is made of three parts.

- A light focusing part at the front (cornea and lens).
- A light sensitive film at the back of the eye (retina).
- A large collection of communication wires to the brain (optic nerve).



## **Uvea**

The uvea is made up of the:

- Iris
- Choroid

## **What is Uveitis?**

- Uveitis is inflammation of the middle lining of the eye, which is known as the Uvea. The inflammation can be in the front of the eye, the back of the eye, or both.
- The most common type of inflammation is of the iris (the coloured part of the eye), and this is known as Iritis.
- Uveitis can affect one or both eyes.
- Uveitis is a puzzling condition and in many cases we do not know what causes it.
- Occasionally it is due to an infection but in most cases we suspect an abnormality in the immune system.
- In some cases, the uveitis is associated with inflammation in other parts of the body, particularly arthritis in the joints.
- Uveitis in children can be impossible to spot until a specialist examines their eyes. This is because the condition does not cause pain and children do not tell adults about the blurred vision and 'floaters' they may notice.

## **How does this affect the way my child sees?**

### **Vision**

- Vision may not be affected at all but in some cases it can be severely reduced.
- Cataracts, glaucoma and/or other conditions may develop and these may affect the vision.

### **Photophobia / Glare**

Children may be uncomfortable in bright light. This may cause their eyes to water.

## What can be done to help?

1. **Mild cases** will just be monitored.
2. **Medical Treatment.** Some or all of the following treatments may be tried:
  - Eye drops
  - Steroid injection
  - Tablets / oral medicine
  - Surgery – an operation may be needed for complications.
3. **Glasses.** In Uveitis, glasses may be needed and tinted lenses or a peaked hat may help to reduce glare.

## How can parents, family, friends and teachers make a difference?

1. Be aware of possible problems with **glare**.
2. Parents, teachers and health professionals **MUST** work together to ensure the **medications** are given at the correct times. **This is vital to prevent unnecessary complications.**
3. With this condition it is extremely important that you keep **ALL** your eye **appointments**. Your child's eyes need to be monitored very closely.

## Useful contacts.



### **Birmingham Focus on Blindness**

Tel: 0121 478 5200

### **RNIB**

Tel: 0845 766 9999

### **LOOK (or families with visually impaired children)**

Tel: 0121 428 5038

### **Uveitis Information Group**

South House

Sweening

Vidlin

Shetland

ZE2 9QE

Tel: 01806 577 310

E-mail: [info@uveitis.net](mailto:info@uveitis.net)

Web Site: [www.uveitis.net](http://www.uveitis.net)

**This information is intended to describe most aspects of the condition but each child is different and there will always be exceptions.**

### **Acknowledgements**

This leaflet was compiled by a multidisciplinary team from the eye departments at Birmingham Children's Hospital and Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham Focus on Blindness and Birmingham Specialist Support Services.