

If your symptoms fail to improve, your vision deteriorates or pain increases please contact the **Eye Department**:

**Monday–Friday, 8.30 am–5.30 pm
(excluding bank holidays)**

Please ring the hospital switchboard on **01473 712233** and ask to speak to the **Eye Clinic coordinator**. You will be able to speak to a registered nurse.

**Monday–Friday, after 5.30 pm;
weekends and bank holidays**

Please ring the hospital switchboard on **01473 712233** and ask to speak to the **on-call ophthalmologist**. You will be able to speak to a doctor.

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The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust
Heath Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5PD
Hospital switchboard: 01473 712233
www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk

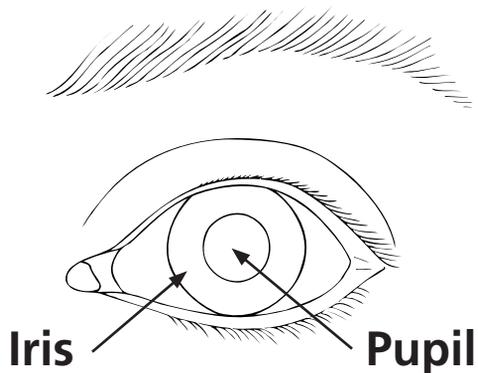
Iritis

Information for patients

***Ophthalmology Department
See back page for contact
details***

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Iritis is inflammation of the coloured part of the eye – the iris.
The iris controls the amount of light entering the eye through the pupil.



Signs and symptoms

Iritis usually occurs suddenly, resulting in a painful, red eye with blurred and possibly reduced vision, dislike of bright lights (photophobia) and sometimes watering. The cornea (clear window of the eye) may be hazy in severe cases.

Causes

The condition may be linked to other conditions and you may need to have investigations such as blood tests and X-rays should the condition recur. The cause is usually unknown in 70% of cases.

Treatment

Treatment is by anti-inflammatory eyedrops and drops to enlarge the pupil. It is essential that you place the eyedrops in your eye exactly as prescribed. This may be as frequently as every hour at first.

The drops to enlarge your pupil help alleviate the pain and prevent complications. They will blur your vision and make bright lights uncomfortable. It may be helpful to wear dark glasses.

Care should be taken when walking about, crossing roads, pouring hot liquids, etc.

You may need to take time off work, especially if your job entails driving or operating machinery.

Simple pain relievers may need to be taken.

Follow-up appointments

The condition may take a few weeks to resolve and requires regular follow-up visits to the Eye Clinic. It is liable to recur, and may affect the other eye.