

# What is noninfectious uveitis affecting the back part of the eye?

## An inflammatory disease of the uvea

### Three parts of the uvea (or uveal tract)—the middle layer of the eye

#### Iris

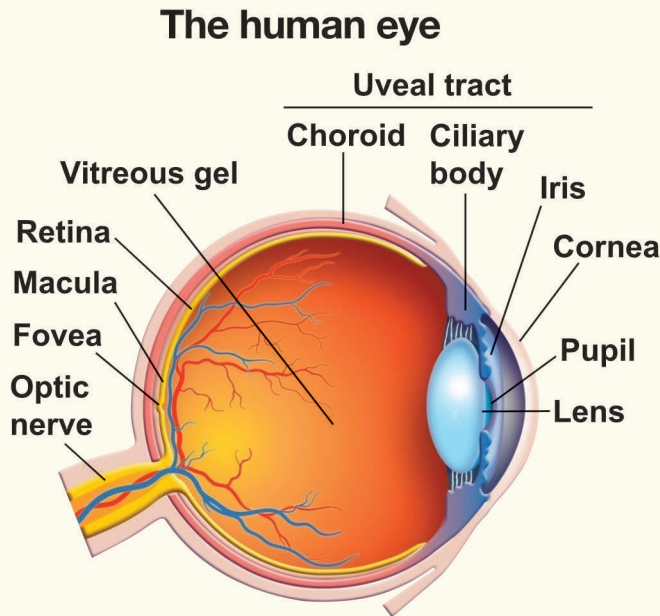
- A muscular disk with an opening at the center (the pupil) that allows light into the eye
- Gives eyes their color
- Helps you see at different light levels by changing the size of the pupil to increase or decrease the amount of light entering the eye

#### Ciliary body

- A muscular ring surrounding the lens of the eye
- Changes the shape of the lens to focus your vision
- Feeds the front part of the eye by releasing a fluid called “aqueous humor”

#### Choroid

- Layer of tissue and blood vessels surrounding the retina
- Feeds and keeps the back of the eye healthy



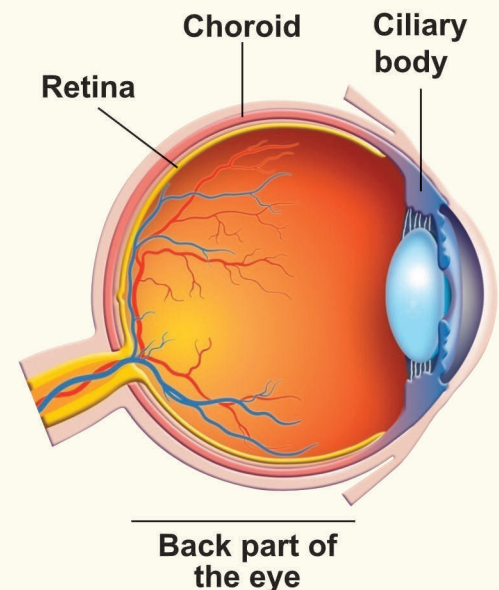
### The inflammation is noninfectious

- Often, no specific cause is found (such as bacteria or viruses)
- May be an autoimmune reaction—when the body mistakes some of its own cells for foreign invaders
- May result from disease in another part of the body

### The inflammation affects the back part of the eye

- May include the ciliary body and the choroid
- May also involve the retina and retinal blood vessels

### Parts of the eye that may be inflamed



# What is noninfectious uveitis affecting the back part of the eye? (continued)

## Are there symptoms?

- Decreased vision
- Small black spots (floaters)
- Usually painless

***Significant vision loss may occur if the retina is affected***

## Can the inflammation cause other problems?

Cloudiness (called “vitreous haze”) may occur if immune cells enter the gel (vitreous) that fills the back part of the eye

- Caused by inflammation
- May contribute to decreased vision

## Possible long-term complications

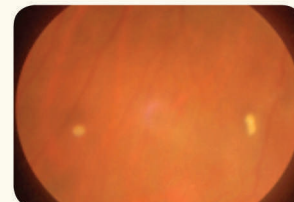
- Reduced vision due to eye damage
- Recurrences over months to years

## Vitreous haze

Looking inside a healthy eye



Looking inside an eye with vitreous haze



## Talking to your doctor is very important

- Medical treatments are available
- Your doctor will discuss these options with you

*An educational resource provided by*

