

Scleritis of the eye

Department of Ophthalmology

Information for Patients

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What is scleritis?

Scleritis is an inflammatory condition that affects the white of the eye (sclera). It is not as common as episcleritis but can be more serious.

It can be recurrent and can affect either 1 or both eyes. It can cause complications like loss of vision, thinning and (if untreated) even hole in the white of the eye (Ocular perforation).

What causes scleritis?

In about half of cases, no underlying cause is found. Scleritis can be linked with other general health conditions such as

- rheumatoid arthritis,
- systemic lupus erythematosus and
- granulomatosis with polyangiitis.

What are the symptoms of scleritis

- Redness of the white of the eye with often a purplish hue.
- Severe eye pain which may go to the forehead and jaw
- Pain is worse at night and on lying down
- Pain can wake you up from sleep
- Sensitivity to light

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or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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What is the treatment for scleritis?

The treatment for scleritis is usually oral steroids or anti-inflammatory tablets.

Steroid eye drops may also be given.

You will need to be seen at a clinic where an eye doctor will review your case.

At times you may need to take immunosuppressive tablets. These would need to be taken for 2 to 3 years or even longer. We will talk to you about this in detail, if this is needed, before prescribing.

Contact details

If you have any of these problems, contact the Eye Casualty Department on 0116 258 6273 or come to Eye Casualty which is in the Windsor Eye Clinic, Level 1, Windsor Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Eye Casualty opening times:

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday, 8.30am to 12.30pm

If your problem happens outside of these hours and you feel that it is urgent, you should come to the main Adult Emergency Department at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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