What is uveitis?
Uveitis: Basics

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*What three structures comprise the uvea?*
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What three structures comprise the uvea?
The choroid, ciliary body and iris.
The eye can be thought to consist of three layers or *tunics*: A tough outer tunic consisting of the sclera and cornea; the inner retinal tunic; and, between the other two, the highly vascular tunic called the *uvea*. 
What is uveitis?
**In theory at least,** it refers to inflammation of one or more components of the uvea.

What three structures comprise the uvea?
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*Why did the first answer include the hedge ‘in theory at least’?*
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Why did the first answer include the hedge ‘in theory at least’?
Because in clinical parlance, some of the inflammatory conditions to which the term uveitis is applied involve non-uveal tissues (e.g., the retina; vitreous).
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In a nutshell, how should the process of evaluating and managing a case of uveitis proceed?
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*(We will address all of these steps through the course of this topic.)*
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**What specifically constitute the ‘germane aspects’ of a pt’s identity?**

-- Age
-- Gender
-- Ethnicity/race
-- Geographic history
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**How specific does the age need to be?**
Age can be considered in terms of stages of life; ie, infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, elderly

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--- Social history
--- Vocational/avocational activities

--- Geographic history

--- Occupational history

--- Educational history

--- Income history

--- Housing history

--- Leisure/entertainment activities

--- Religion/Spiritual/Cultural

--- Recreational activities

--- Travel history

--- Physical/fitness activities

--- Marital history

--- Other:

--- Studies are obtained to identify the etiology
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What needs to be covered in the ROS/PE?
Everything!!!!

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What needs to be covered in the ROS/PE? Everything!!!

--- Constitutional
--- Neuro
--- ENT
--- Skin
--- Pulmonary
--- Cardiac
--- GI
--- GU
--- Musculoskeletal
In the context of uveitis, to what does ‘profiling’ refer?
It refers to identifying (i.e., profiling) two components of a uveitis case:
1) germane aspects of the pt’s personal history, demographics, etc.; and
2) certain key features of the inflammation itself (e.g., location, duration, etc).

What precisely constitutes ‘certain key features of the inflammation itself’ is the subject of the next section…

Ms. Jones is a 40 y.o. female of Middle-Eastern descent who presents with a chronic bilateral granulomatous panuveitis.
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The **severity** of the uveitis

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What are the four locations?
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--Intermediate
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--Onset: something vs something
--Duration
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How are onset, duration and course delineated?
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With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in… **Anterior uveitis**?
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**The location of the uveitis**
- Anterior?
- Intermediate
- Posterior
- Panuveitis

**The onset, duration and course of the uveitis**
- Onset: Sudden vs insidious
- Duration: Limited vs persistent
- Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

**The severity of the uveitis**
- AC cell grade
- AC flare grade
- Vitreous haze score

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With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in...

Anterior uveitis? The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)

Anterior uveitis

…IIs divided into three subtypes based on what attribute?

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  - Panuveitis

- **Onset**, **Duration**, and **Course** of the uveitis:
  - Onset: Sudden vs insidious
  - Duration: Limited vs persistent
  - Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

What are the three ‘cell locations’?

- Exclusively in the AC
- In the AC and the anterior vitreous
- Exclusively in the AVit

What are the three ‘cell locations’?

- It is called: ?
- It is called: ?
- It is called: ?

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- Posterior uveitis?
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With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…

**Anterior uveitis**?

- The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur).

**Intermediate uveitis**?

- The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana

**Posterior uveitis**?

- The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

**Panuveitis**?

- All three locations are equally involved

Anterior uveitis

*If cell is located…*

- Exclusively in the AC
  - It is called: Iritis
- In the AC and the anterior vitreous
  - It is called: ?
- Exclusively in the AVit
  - It is called: Anterior cyclitis

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---

When inflammatory cells aggregate in small clumps in the far periphery, what are these aggregates called?

When the aggregates cover a much larger area of the far periphery, what are they called?

*Reduction of inflammation in… cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur*)

- the **peripheral retina and/or pars plana**
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The **severity** of the uveitis
- AC cell grade
- AC flare grade
- Vitreous haze score

When inflammatory cells aggregate in small clumps in the far periphery, what are these aggregates called? **Snowballs**

When the aggregates cover a much larger area of the far periphery, what are they called? **Snowbanks**

Snowballs may be observed in the **peripheral retina and/or pars plana**.
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The **severity** of the uveitis

- AC cell grade
- AC flare grade
- Vitreous haze score

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- Intermediate
- Posterior
- Panuveitis

The onset, duration, and course of the uveitis

- Onset: Sudden vs insidious
- Duration: Limited vs persistent
- Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in...

Anterior uveitis? The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)

Intermediate uveitis? The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana

Intermediate uveitis...Is divided into two subtypes based on what attribute?

Intermediated uveitis

...Is divided into two subtypes based on what attribute?

- It is called:
- ?

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- The *location* of the uveitis: Anterior, Intermediate, Posterior, Panuveitis.
- The *onset*, *duration*, and *course* of the uveitis: Onset: Sudden vs insidious; Duration: Limited vs persistent; Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic.

With respect to uveitis: *Where is the primary location of inflammation in…*

- **Anterior uveitis?** The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur).
- **Intermediate uveitis?** The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana.
- **Posterior uveitis?** The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head.
- **Panuveitis?** All three locations are equally involved.

Intermediate uveitis: *…Is divided into two subtypes based on what attribute?*

*Whether it is idiopathic, vs associated with an infection or systemic inflammatory condition.*

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Uveitis: **Classification**

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- Intermediate uveitis? The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana.

The location of the uveitis
- Anterior
- Intermediate (circled)
- Posterior
- Panuveitis

Intermediate uveitis
If condition is…

Idiopathic
- It is called: Pars planitis

Not idiopathic
- It is called: ?

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The **location** of the uveitis

**Intermediate uveitis**

*If condition is…*

- **Idiopathic**
  - *It is called:*
    - Pars planitis
- **Not idiopathic**
  - *It is called:*
    - Intermediate uveitis

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--AC flare grade
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--**Posterior**
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The severity of the uveitis
--AC cell grade
--AC flare grade
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Posterior uveitis…Is divided into three subtypes based on what attribute? Inflammation location

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- **Severity** of the uveitis:
  - AC cell grade
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- **Posterior uveitis**? The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

**Posterior uveitis**

If inflammation is located…

? ? ?

What are the three ‘inflammation locations’?

It is called: It is called: It is called:

? ? ?

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   - Anterior
   - Intermediate
   - **Posterior**?
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   - Onset: Sudden vs insidious
   - Duration: Limited vs persistent
   - Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

3. **Severity** of the uveitis
   - AC cell grade
   - AC flare grade
   - Vitreous haze score

**Posterior uveitis**

*If inflammation is located…*

- Exclusively in the choroid
- In both the choroid *and* the retina
- Exclusively in the retina

*What are the three ‘inflammation locations’?*

- It is called: ?
- It is called: ?
- It is called: ?

*With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…*

**Anterior uveitis?** The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)

**Intermediate uveitis?** The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana

**Posterior uveitis?** The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head
In the context of uveitis, what does the acronym SUN stand for?

Standardization of Uveitis Nomenclature, a working group appointed by the International Ocular Inflammation Society.

What was the task of the SUN Working Group?

To standardize uveitis nomenclature.

The SUN classification system is based on three sets of criteria. What are they?

1. The location of the uveitis
   - Anterior
   - Intermediate
   - Posterior

2. The onset, duration and course of the uveitis
   - Onset: Sudden vs insidious
   - Duration: Limited vs persistent
   - Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

3. The severity of the uveitis
   - AC cell grade
   - AC flare grade
   - Vitreous haze score

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…

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Posterior uveitis? The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

- Exclusively in the choroid
- In both the choroid and the retina
- Exclusively in the retina

It is called:

?
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- Intermediate uveitis? The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana
- Posterior uveitis? The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

Exclusively in the choroid
- It is called: Choroiditis

In both the choroid and the retina
- It is called: [Blank]

Exclusively in the retina
- It is called: [Blank]

1) The uveitis is profiled
2) The profiled case is meshed
3) A differential diagnosis list is generated
4) Studies are obtained to identify the etiology
5) Treatment appropriate for the etiology is initiated
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  - Anterior
  - Intermediate
  - **Posterior**
  - Panuveitis

- **Onset**, **Duration**, and **Course** of the uveitis
  - Onset: Sudden vs insidious
  - Duration: Limited vs persistent
  - Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

- **Severity** of the uveitis
  - AC cell grade
  - AC flare grade
  - Vitreous haze score

Posterior uveitis

*If inflammation is located…*

- Exclusively in the choroid
- In both the choroid and the retina
- Exclusively in the retina

- It is called:
- ?
- ?
- ?

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…

- **Anterior uveitis**? The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)
- **Intermediate uveitis**? The main vitreous cavity, +/- the peripheral retina and/or pars plana
- **Posterior uveitis**? The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

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- AC cell grade
- AC flare grade
- Vitreous haze score

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  - AC flare grade
  - Vitreous haze score

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- **Posterior uveitis**? The retina, choroid, and/or optic nerve head

Posterior uveitis

*If inflammation is located…*

- Exclusively in the choroid
  - It is called: Choroiditis

- In both the choroid and the retina
  - It is called: ?

- Exclusively in the retina
  - It is called: Retinitis

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The severity of the uveitis—AC cell grade—AC flare grade—Vitreous haze score

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…
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Uveitis: Classification

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2) The profiled case is meshed
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4) Studies are obtained to identify the etiology
5) Treatment appropriate for the etiology is initiated

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

Exclusively in the choroid

It is called:

Choroiditis

In both the choroid and the retina

It is called:

Chorioretinitis or Retinochoroiditis

Exclusively in the retina

It is called:

Retinitis
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   - AC cell grade
   - AC flare grade
   - Vitreous haze score

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

- Exclusively in the choroid
  - It is called: Choroiditis

- In both the choroid and the retina
  - It is called: ?

- Exclusively in the retina
  - It is called: Retinitis

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in…

Anterior uveitis? The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)

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-- Intermediate
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The onset, duration and course of the uveitis

-- Onset: Sudden vs insidious
-- Duration: Limited vs persistent
-- Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

The severity of the uveitis

-- AC cell grade
-- AC flare grade
-- Vitreous haze score

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located...

Exclusively in the choroid

It is called: Choroiditis

In both the choroid and the retina

It is called: Neuroretinitis

Exclusively in the retina

It is called: Retinitis

With respect to uveitis: Where is the primary location of inflammation in...

Anterior uveitis? The anterior chamber (although cell ‘spillover’ into the anterior vitreous may occur)

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The **location** of the uveitis
--Anterior
--Intermediate
--Posterior

**Panuveitis?**

The **onset, duration and course** of the uveitis
--Onset: Sudden vs insidious
--Duration: Limited vs persistent
--Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

The **severity** of the uveitis
--AC cell grade
--AC flare grade
--Vitreous haze score

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**Panuveitis?**
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- Onset: Sudden vs insidious
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**Panuveitis**

The **onset, duration** and **course** of the uveitis
--Onset: Sudden vs insidious
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The **severity** of the uveitis
--AC cell grade
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With respect to uveitis, where is the primary inflammation located in…

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**Panuveitis**? All three locations are equally involved

A pt has dense AC cell, scant anterior vitreous cell, and cystoid macular edema. Given all three locations are involved, this pt has panuveitis, yes?

No. The description clearly suggests the pt has an anterior uveitis with spillover of cell into the anterior vitreous, along with cystoid macular edema caused by the anterior uveitis. In other words, despite the fact that all three locations are involved, the primary location is anterior, making this an anterior uveitis.
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With respect to uveitis, what is the difference between…
Sudden vs insidious onset?
Uveitis: Classification

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---AC cell grade
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With respect to uveitis, what is the difference between…
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Sudden vs insidious *onset*? Sudden-onset uveitis presents with abrupt development of symptoms (pain, photophobia) and signs (injection); insidious uveitis is largely sign- and symptom-free
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Limited vs persistent duration? Limited lasts < 3 months; persistent > 3 months
Acute, recurrent vs chronic course? Acute uveitis comes on suddenly and resolves fairly quickly. Recurrent uveitis eventually relapses, but is quiescent off-treatment for at least 3 months.
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<thead>
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**Limited vs persistent duration?** Limited lasts < 3 months; persistent > 3 months.

**Acute, recurrent vs chronic course?** Acute uveitis comes on suddenly and resolves fairly quickly.

Recurrent uveitis eventually relapses, but is quiescent off-treatment for at least 3 months. Chronic uveitis also relapses, but its quiescent periods off-treatment last **less** than 3 months.
**Uveitis: Classification**

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How is the severity of the AC cellular reaction graded?

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--AC cell grade
--AC flare grade
--Vitreous haze score

*How is the severity of the AC cellular reaction graded?*
By counting the number of WBCs visible within a 1 x 1 mm slit-lamp beam
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How is the severity of the AC cellular reaction graded? By counting the number of WBCs visible within a 1 x 1 mm slit-lamp beam

What are the six grades employed in the SUN criteria, and how many cells/field correlate with each grade?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number of Cells/Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5+</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+</td>
<td>6-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+</td>
<td>16-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3+</td>
<td>26-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>&gt;50</td>
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How is the severity of the AC cellular reaction graded?
By counting the number of WBCs visible within a 1 x 1 mm slit-lamp beam

What are the six grades employed in the SUN criteria, and how many cells/field correlate with each grade?
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Where/what is Arlt’s triangle?

It’s a triangle with its apex at the corneal center and base near the inferior border of the cornea.

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Uveitis: Classification

Diffusely distributed KP

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Always...in **Arlt’s triangle**
Always...**diffuse**
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- Stellate KP
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Synechiae typically are found in one of two locations--where?
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Laterality (ie, laterality vs. midline)

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In the context of uveitis, what does the acronym SUN stand for? Standardization of Uveitis Nomenclature, a working group appointed by the International Ocular Inflammation Society

What was the task of the SUN Working Group? To standardize uveitis nomenclature

The SUN classification system is based on three sets of criteria. What are they?

The **location** of the uveitis
--Anterior
--Intermediate
--Posterior
--Panuveitis

The **onset, duration and course** of the uveitis
--Onset: Sudden vs insidious
--Duration: Limited vs persistent
--Course: Acute vs recurrent vs chronic

The **severity** of the uveitis
--AC cell grade
--AC flare grade
--Vitreous haze score

Broadly, what sorts of iris changes must be looked for?
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--Nodules
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In addition to location, onset/duration/course, and severity, what other aspects of presentation are important in classifying a case of uveitis?

--Laterality (i.e., uni- vs bilateral)
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Uveitis: Classification

Iris synechiae

Posterior

Peripheral anterior

Iris synechiae
Uveitis: Classification

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Iris nodules typically are found in one of three locations--where?

--At the pupillary margin
--The mid-iris
--At the angle
Uveitis: Classification

Marginal

Mid-iris

Iris nodules

Near the angle
**Uveitis: Classification**

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*In a pt with uveitis and heterochromia, which iris is more likely to be the abnormal one--the lighter iris, or the darker?*
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**In a pt with uveitis and heterochromia, which iris is more likely to be the abnormal one--the lighter iris, or the darker?**

The lighter
Uveitis: *Classification*

Heterochromia iridis in a uveitis pt