Uveitis: Basics

What is uveitis?
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In theory at least, it refers to inflammation of one or more components of the uvea.
Uveitis: Basics

*What is uveitis?*
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*What three structures comprise the uvea?*
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In theory at least, it refers to inflammation of one or more components of the uvea.

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*.
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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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**Uveitis: Profiling**

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- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity/race
- Geographic history
- Family history
- Social history
- Vocational/avocational activities

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--- **Vocational/avocational activities**

--- **Family history**

--- **Geographic history**

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What needs to be covered in the ROS/PE? Everything!!!!
--Constitutional
--Neuro
--ENT
--Skin
--Pulmonary
--Cardiac
--GI
--GU
--Musculoskeletal

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In the context of uveitis, to what does ‘profiling’ refer?
It refers to identifying (i.e., profiling) two components of a uveitis case:
1) Germaine 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…

E.g., ‘Ms. Jones is a 40 y.o. female of Middle-Eastern descent who presents with a chronic bilateral granulomatous panuveitis.’
In the context of uveitis, what does the acronym SUN stand for?

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Standardization of Uveitis Nomenclature, a working group appointed by the International Ocular Inflammation Society
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The SUN classification system is based on three sets of criteria. What are they?
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The location of the uveitis, the onset, duration, and course of the uveitis, the severity of the uveitis.
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The **onset, duration** and **course** of the uveitis

The **severity** of the uveitis

What are the four locations?
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The location of the uveitis
---Anterior
---Intermediate
---Posterior
---Panuveitis

The onset, duration and course of the uveitis

The severity of the uveitis

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--- Onset: something vs something
--- Duration
--- Course

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- Duration
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How are onset, duration and course delineated?

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- **Anterior?** --Intermediate
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The **onset, duration and course** of the uveitis

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Anterior uveitis
If cell is located…

What are the three ‘cell locations’?

Anterior?
Intermediate?
Posterior?
Panuveitis?

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

Panuveitis?

All three locations are equally involved

Anterior uveitis

If cell is located…

Exclusively in the AC

In the AC and the anterior vitreous

Exclusively in the AVit

What are the three ‘cell locations’?

It is called:

Exclusively in the AC

It is called:

In the AC and the anterior vitreous

It is called:

Exclusively in the AVit

Uveitis: Classification

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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:

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**Anterior uveitis**

*If cell is located…*

- **Exclusively in the AC**
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- **In the AC and the anterior vitreous**
  - It is called: ?
- **Exclusively in the AVit**
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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?
- Snowballs
- Snowbanks

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When inflammatory cells aggregate in small clumps in the far periphery, what are these aggregates called?
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A detailed classification of inflammation in the peripheral retina and/or pars plana includes cell "spillover" into the anterior vitreous may occur.
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**Snowballs**

When the aggregates cover a much larger area of the far periphery, what are they called?
- the **peripheral retina and/or pars plana**

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Intermediate uveitis

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

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

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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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Intermediate uveitis

*If condition is…*

Idiopathic

Not idiopathic

It is called:

?

?

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

**Not idiopathic?**

The diagnostic tree, based on intermediate uveitis:

**Intermediate uveitis**

*If condition is…*

- **Idiopathic**
  - It is called: **Pars planitis**

- **Not idiopathic**
  - It is called: ?

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

**Intermediate uveitis**

*If condition is…*

- Idiopathic
  - It is called:
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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

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

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Posterior uveitis

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What are the three ‘inflammation locations’?

Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

? ? ?

What are the three ‘inflammation locations’?

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---

**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:
  - ?
  - ?
  - ?

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If inflammation is located…

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It is called: 

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It is called:

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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: ?

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**Posterior uveitis**

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

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Posterior uveitis

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It is called: Choroiditis

In both the choroid and the retina

It is called: ?

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

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Posterior uveitis

If inflammation is located…

- Exclusively in the choroid
  - It is called: Choroiditis

- In both the choroid and the retina
  - It is called: Optic nerve head

- Exclusively in the retina
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The SUN classification system is based on three sets of criteria: location, onset, duration, and course of the uveitis; location of the uveitis; severity of the uveitis.

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
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The **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:*

- Choroiditis
- **Neuroretinitis**
- Retinitis

Optic nerve head

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

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

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

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?

With respect to uveitis, where is the primary inflammation located in…

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

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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.

With respect to uveitis, where is the primary inflammation located in…

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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

Arlt’s triangle

In addition to location, onset/duration/course, severity, laterality, and the character of keratic precipitates, what other aspects of presentation are important in classifying a case of uveitis? 
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Always…

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Always... in Arlt's triangle
Always... diffuse
Uveitis: Classification

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

In addition to location, onset/duration/course, and severity, what other aspects of presentation are important in classifying a case of uveitis?
--Laterality (ie, unilateral vs bilateral)
--The character of keratic precipitates (KP) if present
--Iris changes

Broadly, what sorts of iris changes must be looked for?
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--Atrophy
--Synechiae
--Nodules
--Heterochromia
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The character of atrophic changes is often described with one of two terms. What are they?

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In addition to location, onset/duration/course, and severity, what other aspects of presentation are important in determining classification?

--Laterality (i.e., whether it is uni- vs bilateral)

--The character of keratic precipitates (KP) if present

--Iris changes

  * Broadly, what is the character of atrophic changes? Two terms. What are they?*
  
  --Atrophy
  
  --Synechiae
  
  --Nodules
  
  --Heterochromia

  * The character of atrophic changes is often described with one of two terms. What are they?*  
  
  --Diffuse
  
  --Sectoral
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- Laterality (i.e., whether it is uni- vs bilateral)
- The character of keratic precipitates (KP) if present
- Iris changes
- Synechiae typically are found in one of two locations—where?
  - At the angle (these are called peripheral anterior synechiae—PAS)
- Synechiae
  - Atrophy
  - Nodules
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**Synechiae**
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Synechiae typically are found in one of two locations—where?

---At the pupillary margin (these are called posterior synechiae)
---At the angle (these are called peripheral anterior synechiae—PAS)
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Iris nodules typically are found in one of three locations--where?

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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