Iritis

What is Iritis?
Iritis is inflammation inside the eye involving the iris and occasionally, some other surrounding structures.

What Causes Iritis?
Although there are many possible causes, most of the times the exact reason cannot be identified. However, iritis may less commonly be associated with autoimmune diseases, arthritic conditions, and infections.

What are the Symptoms?
Iritis presents as a sudden onset of a red, blurry, painful eye. A common symptom is a dull aching pain made worse when looking at bright lights. Since the iris controls the pupil (the hole through which light enters the eye), the eye can be particularly light sensitive. The pupil may appear smaller in the affected eye when compared to the normal pupil. You vision can become blurred, and you may see spots floating in your vision. Iritis can affect one or both eyes. There is usually no discharge, though the eye may sometimes water. If untreated, it can worsen and lead to other eye diseases, such as glaucoma, cataracts, or loss of vision.

How is Iritis Diagnosed?
Taking a detailed medical history
Let your doctor know if anyone in your family has had a history of iritis or uveitis. Also tell your doctor if you have had any of the following:
a virus or other infection
a chronic condition or allergy
a joint disease, such as arthritis or stiffness in your backs
an injury, trauma, or object in your eye
a sexually transmitted disease
a parasite or fungal infection

Examining your eyes
Your eye doctor will examine the inside of your eyes with a special microscope called a slit lamp. The slit lamp allows the doctor to see any inflammation inside the eye.

What is the Treatment
Treatment of iritis is directed towards suppressing the inflammation and minimizing any complications. Prompt attention is required in order to minimize any potential problems. The treatment of iritis consists of using anti-inflammatory and dilating drops. These medicines decrease the inflammation and reduce the scarring that may occur. Both
drops are tapered off slowly when the iritis is quiet. An acute attack of iritis requires immediate ophthalmic care.