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Risk Factors for the Development of Cataract in Children with Uveitis

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**Abstract**

**Purpose:** To determine the risk factors for the development of cataract in children with uveitis of any etiology.

**Design:** Cohort study

**Methods:** 247 eyes of 140 children with uveitis were evaluated for the development of vision affecting cataract. Demographic, clinical and treatment data were collected between the time of presentation and the first instance cataract was recorded or findings at final follow-up. Main outcome measures included prevalence of cataract and distribution by type of uveitis, incidence of new onset cataract time to cataract development and risk factors for the development of cataract.

**Results:** The prevalence of cataract in our cohort was 44.2% and was highest among eyes with panuveitis (77.1%), chronic anterior uveitis (48.3%) and intermediate uveitis (48.0%). The overall incidence of newly diagnosed cataract was 0.09/eye-year, with an estimated 69% to develop uveitis-related cataract with time. The main factors related with cataract development were: number of uveitis flares per year (HR 3.06, 95% CI 2.15-4.35,  $p < 0.001$ ), cystoid macular edema (HR 2.87, 95% CI 1.41-5.82,  $p = 0.004$ ), posterior synechia at presentation (HR 2.85, 95% CI 1.53-5.30,  $p = 0.001$ ) and use of local injections of corticosteroids (HR 2.37, 95% CI 1.18-4.75,  $p = 0.02$ ). Treatment with systemic and topical corticosteroids were not significant risk factors.

**Conclusions:** In this study, we found that development of cataract is common among pediatric eyes with uveitis and is most strongly related to the extent of inflammation recurrences and ocular complications. We suggest that controlling the inflammation, even using higher doses of systemic and topical corticosteroids, is of importance in preventing ocular complications such as cataract.

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