



## **ENDOPHTHALMITIS**

Endophthalmitis is an often serious bacterial infection within the interior of the eye.

It may occur following procedures that require entry into the eye, such as cataract or certain glaucoma surgery. Postoperative Endophthalmitis is an uncommon disorder, affecting less than 1 in 1000 surgeries. Injuries that cause a laceration of the eye carry a somewhat higher risk of Endophthalmitis, affecting about 1 of 20 patients. The least common cause of Endophthalmitis occurs when bacteria are carried into the eye via the bloodstream. This typically only occurs when a patient is seriously ill with bacterial sepsis ("blood poisoning") or if a defective heart valve is present.

Symptoms may include pain, loss of vision, swelling or redness of the eye and discharge following surgery, but some cases may be asymptomatic.

The treatment of this condition involves culturing a sample of the fluid from within the eye to determine the type of bacteria involved, combined with injecting antibiotics into the infected eye. Depending on the circumstances, oral antibiotics may also be utilized. Cases of severe infection may require surgery to help clear the bacteria and inflammation from the eye.

Bacterial infections can cause serious damage to the delicate tissues within the eye, especially the retina. This can result in loss of vision which may be permanent. Naturally, the visual outcome depends on the severity of the infection, which can vary widely. In some cases, however, vision can be restored, although this can take weeks to months to occur.