

SCLERITIS AND EPISCLERITIS

(AFTER BLACK)

An Overview

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IMPORTANT

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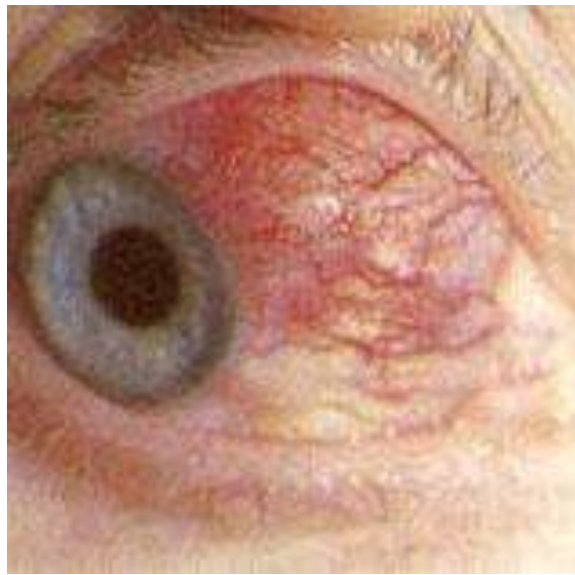
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Scleritis

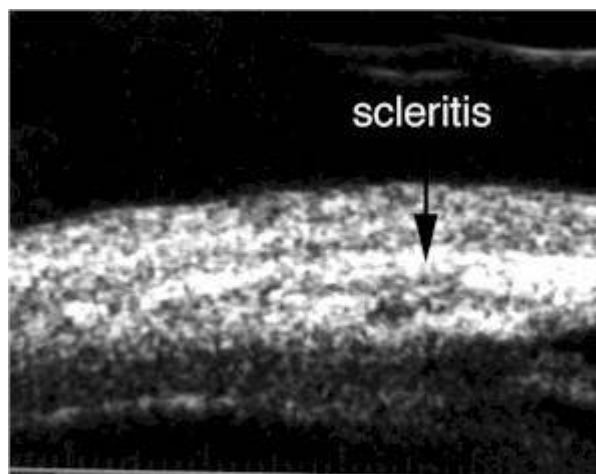
Inflammation of the sclera. This can be localized or diffuse, can affect the anterior or posterior sclera and can affect one or both eyes. The affected eye is usually red and painful. The affected eye is usually red and painful. Scleritis can lead to thinning and even perforation of the sclera. This can happen sometimes with little sign of inflammation. Posterior Scleritis in particular may cause impaired vision and require emergency treatment. There is often no apparent cause, but there are some associated conditions, for example, HERPES ZOSTER OPTHALMICUS, RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, gout, and an autoimmune disease affecting the nasal passages and lungs called Wegener's granulomatosis. Treatment depends on severity but may involve NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS, topical CORTICOSTEROIDS or systemic IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE drugs.

(Black's Medical Dictionary, 40th Edition; Edited by Gordon Macpherson MB, BS; A & C Black Publishers Limited; © 2002; p. 227)

(Picture below - Scleritis)



(Picture below - Scleritis (cross section of Sclera) - Note Perforation Danger)



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Episcleritis

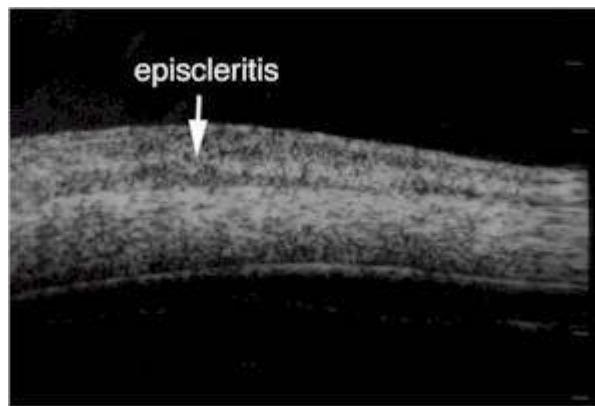
Inflammation of the EPISCLERA. There is usually no apparent cause. The inflammation may be diffuse or localized and may affect one or both eyes. It sometimes recurs. The affected area is usually red and moderately painful. Episcleritis is generally not thought to be as painful as Scleritis and does not lead to the same complications. Treatment is generally directed at improving the patient's symptoms. The inflammation may respond to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or topical corticosteroids.

(Black's Medical Dictionary, 40th Edition; Edited by Gordon Macpherson MB, BS; A & C Black Publishers Limited; © 2002; p. 228)

(Picture below - Episcleritis)



(Picture below - Episcleritis (cross section of Sclera))

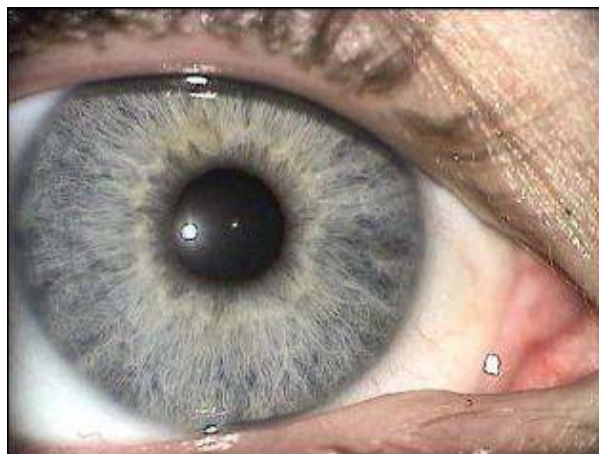


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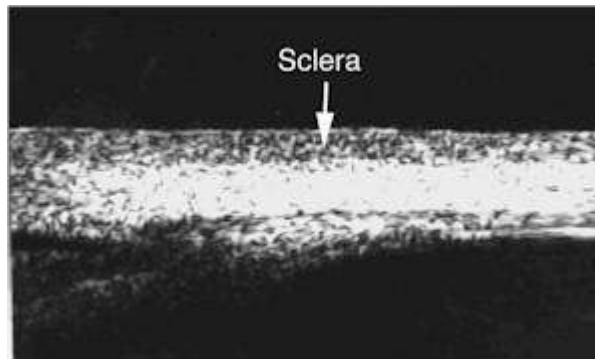
Episclera

The most superficial layer of the sclera of the eye (see EYE). It sometimes becomes inflamed (episcleritis) but the condition usually clears without treatment. (Black's Medical Dictionary, 40th Edition; Edited by Gordon Macpherson MB, BS; A & C Black Publishers Limited; © 2002; p. 211)

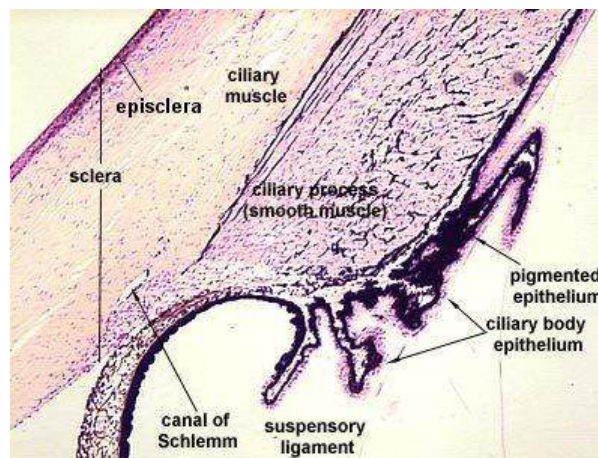
(Picture below - Normal Sclera)



(Picture below - Normal Sclera and Episclera (cross section of Sclera))



(Picture below - Ciliary Process (smooth muscle) and Normal Sclera)



End

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