

COMORBIDITIES OF SPONDYLOARTHRITIS



Uveitis/ Iritis

PEER-TO-PEER

“I had my first bout 1 year ago. Unfortunately, I let it go for quite a while as I believed it was just dry eyes or allergies. When I finally went to the eye clinic the doctor said I should have come in much sooner. Patients need to advocate for themselves as most Ophthalmologists may not recognize or misdiagnose uveitis.”

“About 2 years ago I went to my Ophthalmologist who misdiagnosed my uveitis as an eye infection and prescribed antibacterial eye drops. A week later I needed to go to the hospital to see an eye specialist because it felt like my eye was going to burst. I was diagnosed with uveitis and luckily didn’t develop permanent eye damage. You need to mention the connection you have with SpA when seeing your family doctor or Ophthalmologist.”

“I had my first bout 10 years ago and at that time I didn’t know that it was SpA related. I was diagnosed with an infection and given antibiotics. After looking at all my bloodwork my Ophthalmologist determined it was SpA. The most important lesson is don’t wait for symptoms to get worse, see somebody immediately.”

“My first episode with uveitis came long after my AS diagnosis. I was on holiday when my wife had to drive me to the hospital because of the extreme pain in my eye. I was diagnosed with uveitis but was never told the cause of it because nobody knew the link between AS and uveitis at the time. Luckily, Ophthalmologists are trained to recognize uveitis in the presence of SpA and refer the patient to a Rheumatologist.

“My uveitis bout came much after my AS diagnosis. I didn’t realize the connection at the time and just assumed it was a contact stuck in my eye. By the time I went to see a doctor it was almost 4 weeks later and the pain and redness of my eye were severe. It is important to know the signs of uveitis and not to excuse away any symptoms. Get proper treatment quickly.”