

Endophthalmitis in Children

This material will help you understand endophthalmitis, its causes, and how it can be treated.

What is endophthalmitis?

Endophthalmitis is an infection inside the eye. The tissues of the eye are very sensitive and delicate. An infection inside the eye is a very serious condition and may lead to vision loss. Symptoms include swelling and pain around the eye, and light sensitivity. There may be a progressive decrease in vision. Loss of vision with pain after eye surgery should be reported immediately.

What can cause endophthalmitis?

Endophthalmitis is typically caused by bacteria or fungi from the external environment or from the blood-stream getting into the eye. The inside of the eye is normally sealed and protected from these organisms. However, certain events can increase the chance that they might enter and infect the eye. These events include:

- Eye trauma
- Eye surgery, especially for cataract and glaucoma
- Injections into the eye

How is endophthalmitis treated?

Depending on the nature of your child's condition, a few different treatments may be used to cure the infection. Antibiotics may be given orally or injected directly into the eye. The doctor may also prescribe eye drops to help reduce the inflammation. If the infection is severe, the doctor may perform surgery, such as vitrectomy, to remove the infected material inside the eye.

You and your child's doctor will discuss the treatment option that is best for your child.

What are the chances my child will recover?

Prognosis depends on the cause, severity, and the amount of damage. If your child has a mild case, it is possible he/she will have excellent recovery of his/her vision. In more severe cases, endophthalmitis can lead to complete vision loss and even loss of the eye.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed



<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/endophthalmitis.html>



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/47>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Kristin Maurer, MPH Candidate
Reviewers: Dolly Padovani Claudio, MD, PhD and Gale Oren, MILS

Unless otherwise noted, Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).

Last Revised 4/2015