

# Uveal Cyst

## **What is a Uveal Cyst?**

Uveal cysts, also called iris cysts are pigmented, fluid filled, spheres that are usually brown/black or tan/yellow in color. Cysts usually occur suddenly and in general are considered benign.

Cysts can appear quite dense and can easily be mistaken for melanoma. Examination with a slit-lamp bio microscope allows the cyst to be transilluminated so the observer can appreciate that the cyst is hollow. Cysts can vary in size, shape, and number. Some patients need to have their eyes dilated to see the number, location and size of the cysts.

Cysts may persist for months to years before they rupture. The rupturing of cysts is not painful. A black film can be seen on the inner surface of the cornea, usually at the bottom of the cornea. An important differential consideration for uveal cysts is an intraocular melanoma.

## **What causes Uveal Cysts?**

Cysts develop spontaneously from the iris or ciliary body (located behind the iris.) The specific cause of uveal cysts is not known. An underlying genetic cause is suspected.

## **Are certain breeds more likely to develop Uveal Cysts?**

Yes, Golden Retrievers, Boston Terriers, and Labrador Retrievers are common breeds to develop uveal cysts.

## **What are the potential complications with uveal cysts?**

Vision impairment is the most common complication. There is potential for anterior uveitis and glaucoma in Golden Retrievers.

## **What are the Treatment options?**

Since uveal cysts do not irritate the surrounding tissue, no treatment is necessary unless the pupil is obstructed and vision is impaired. Cysts can be aspirated under anesthesia with a needle or deflated with a diode laser.