

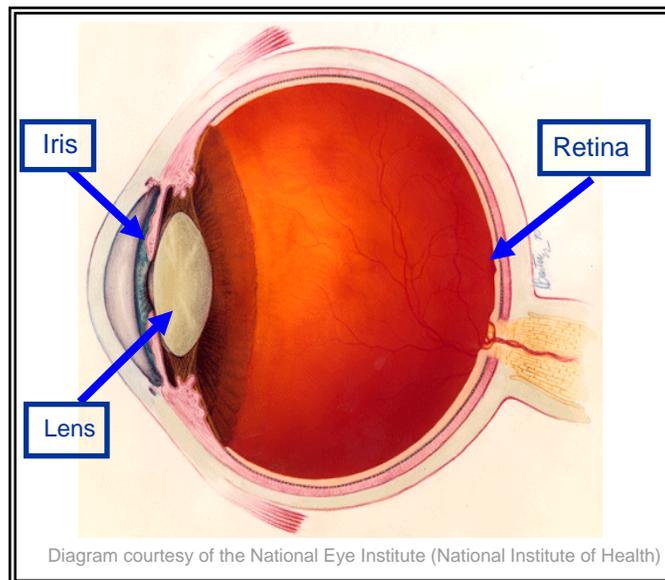
# Aniridia

## What is aniridia?

A rare, congenital (present at birth) absence or partial absence of the **iris** (colored portion of the eye). Often, the iris is **vestigial** (only a small part is present) and the eye appears to have no color.

Other eye abnormalities may be present, including the following:

- Deformities of the **anterior chamber** (front portion of the eye), such as **cataracts** (clouding of the lens of the eye)
- **Glaucoma** (increased pressure in the eye)
- **Decreased vision**
- **Photophobia** (sensitivity to light)
- **Nystagmus** (involuntary eye movements)
- **Displaced lenses**
- Underdeveloped **retina** (back portion of the eye)



## How is aniridia treated?

There are several treatments available for aniridia, including special contact lenses, tinted lenses and/or sunglasses, and other optical aids. Patients with aniridia will be regularly checked for glaucoma; if glaucoma develops, other treatments (which may include surgery) may be recommended. Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

## What causes aniridia?

Currently, the exact cause of aniridia has not been identified. Studies have shown that aniridia can be inherited in either an **autosomal dominant** (meaning only one changed copy of a gene pair is needed for a person to develop aniridia) or an **autosomal recessive** (meaning both copies of a gene must be changed for a person to develop aniridia) manner.

## For more information

**Aniridia Network International** - <http://www.aniridia.org/>  
**Aniridia Foundation International** - <http://www.aniridia.net/>  
**Source:** Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired