FOCUS ON VISION

by Dr. Mark Skowron

ARTHRITIS AND THE EYE

While most people correctly associate arthritis with joint inflammation, "rheumatoid arthritis" (RA), in particular, can cause problems in other, more unexpected areas, such as the eyes. For instance, RA is often associated with "keratitis sicca" ("dry eye syndrome"), which refers to any condition that decreases moisture in the eyes. In addition, while cataracts are most often associated with older individuals, inflammatory forms of arthritis can make cataracts more likely to occur at any age. Inflammatory forms of arthritis can also lead to glaucoma, as a result of increased pressure of the fluid in the eye, which leads to nerve damage. These are all good reasons for rheumatoid arthritis patients to schedule regular eye exams.

Sometimes an eye exam can reveal damage caused by chronic conditions and disease in other parts of your body, before you even begin to notice symptoms. For many chronic conditions and diseases, early diagnosis and treatment are essential for a successful outcome, and these discoveries through an eye exam can often detect the early stages of disease. To schedule an exam, please call SKOWRON EYE CARE. Our goal is to help you maintain a lifetime of healthy, clear, comfortable vision by using the latest in technology from in-vogue eyewear and eyeglasses to complex contact lenses to LASIK eye surgery. *At Skowron Eye Care, our mission is your vision.*

P.S. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) also increases the risk for "uveitis," which is inflammation of the "uvea," the vascular area of the eye found between the retina and the sclera (white of the eye).

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