

## Summary – Optic neuritis

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- Optic neuritis is an inflammatory, demyelinating condition that causes acute, usually monocular vision loss
- It is highly associated with MS, but a variety of infectious, ischemic, and autoimmune conditions are associated with optic neuritis
- Most cases occur in women (2/3) and typically develop in patients between ages of 20-40
- The two most common symptoms are acute to subacute vision loss and eye pain (periorbital/ocular) that is worse with movement
- Loss of colour vision out of proportion to visual acuity is specific to optic nerve pathology
- Suspect optic neuritis in any case of painful visual loss
- IV methylprednisolone, when given within 1-2 weeks of symptom onset, may speed recovery of visual function and decrease the risk of MS within the first two years of follow-up, but no proven effect on either long-term visual outcome or long term risk of developing MS