Eye – Inflammation
NTP Nonneoplastic Lesion Atlas

Eye – Inflammation
Figure Legend:  
**Figure 1** Eye, Cornea - Inflammation, Chronic active in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study. There are diffuse stromal inflammatory cell infiltrates (asterisk), stromal neovascularization (arrow), and fibrosis, and concurrent epithelial hyperplasia (arrowhead).  
**Figure 2** Eye, Cornea - Inflammation, Chronic active in a female B6C3F1 mouse from a chronic study. There is a focal accumulation of neutrophils and necrotic debris (arrow) within the concurrently hyperplastic epithelium (arrowhead); neovascularization and fibrosis are evident in the underlying stroma (asterisk).  
**Figure 3** Eye, Cornea - Inflammation, Suppurative in a male F344/N rat from a subchronic study. There are neutrophils, necrotic debris (asterisk and large clusters of bacteria (arrow) in the cornea.  
**Figure 4** Eye, Cornea - Inflammation, Suppurative in a male F344/N rat from a subchronic study. Higher
magnification of Figure 3. Suppurative corneal inflammation characterized by neutrophil infiltrates, necrotic debris (asterisk) and large clusters of bacteria (arrow). **Figure 5** Eye, Anterior chamber - Inflammation, Acute in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study. Abundant inflammatory cells are present in the anterior chamber (arrow), as well as the adjacent corneal stroma (arrowhead). **Figure 6** Eye, Anterior chamber - Inflammation, Acute in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). The inflammatory cells in the anterior chamber are almost entirely neutrophils (asterisk). **Figure 7** Eye, Iris - Inflammation, Acute and Eye, Ciliary body - Inflammation, Acute in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study. There are abundant inflammatory cells in the iris and ciliary body; inflammatory cells are also present in the anterior chamber (A), posterior chamber (P), and cornea (C). **Figure 8** Eye, Iris - Inflammation, Acute and Eye, Ciliary body - Inflammation, Acute in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). The inflammatory cells in the iris (arrow) and ciliary body (arrowhead) are neutrophils; those in the anterior chamber (A), posterior chamber (P), and cornea (C) are also neutrophils. **Figure 9** Eye, Iris - Inflammation, Acute and Eye, Ciliary body - Inflammation, Acute in a male F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). This higher magnification image shows the neutrophils in the iris and ciliary body in more detail. **Figure 10** Eye, Choroid - Inflammation, Acute in a female F344/N rat from a chronic study. There are inflammatory cells infiltrating the choroid (arrow) and the retina is detached. **Figure 11** Eye, Choroid - Inflammation, Acute in a female F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). There are neutrophils infiltrating the choroid. **Figure 12** Eye, Vitreous - Inflammation, Acute in a female F344/N rat from a chronic study. There are intravitreal accumulations of inflammatory cells (asterisk). **Figure 13** Eye, Vitreous - Inflammation, Acute in a female F344/N rat from a chronic study (higher magnification of Figure 1). The intravitreal inflammatory cells are largely neutrophils (asterisk). **Figure 14** Eye, Retrobulbar - Inflammation, Acute in a female B6C3F1 Mouse from a chronic study. There are numerous inflammatory cells in the retrobulbar space. **Figure 15** Eye, Retrobulbar - Inflammation, Acute in a female B6C3F1 Mouse from a chronic study. There are numerous neutrophils and macrophages in the retrobulbar space.

**Comment:** With the possible exception of the cornea, ocular inflammation is an uncommon background lesion. It can occur in any of the ocular structures and often present in multiple ocular
structures concurrently. Ocular inflammation has a number of causes, including trauma (especially the cornea), chemical irritants, and systemic toxins.

Corneal inflammation can be diffuse or localized in particular zones, such as the epithelium or stroma. In addition to the causes listed above, corneal inflammation can also be caused by insufficient tear production, nutritional deficiencies, and infectious agents, such as bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Since the cornea is normally an avascular tissue, stromal neovascularization is a common component of corneal inflammatory lesions. Hyperplasia of the epithelium is also a frequent finding (Figure 1 and Figure 2). In chronic lesions, stromal fibrosis may be seen. While the intact cornea is resistant to most bacterial pathogens, any breach in the epithelium (e.g., from abrasions, penetrating injury, or toxin-induced necrosis) can introduce bacteria, which incite an inflammatory response. Bacteria can also secondarily colonize preexisting areas of inflammation (Figure 3 and Figure 4) and/or ulceration. Anterior chamber inflammation can extend into the adjacent iris, ciliary body, and lens. Inflammatory cells in the anterior chamber can occlude the iridocorneal filtration angle channels and/or the adjacent trabecular meshwork, impeding normal drainage of aqueous humor with resultant elevations in intraocular pressure. Clinically, intracameral accumulations of neutrophils are referred to as hypopyon.

Anterior uveal tract (iris and ciliary body) inflammation can result from various causes, such as infectious agents such as bacteria and viruses, and immune-mediated (allergic) reactions. Iridial and ciliary body inflammation (Figure 7, Figure 8, and Figure 9) often extends into the adjacent anterior and posterior chambers, cornea, and/or choroid. Likewise, inflammation of the choroid, or posterior uvea (Figure 10 and Figure 11), often extends into the anterior uveal tract (ciliary body and iris) and/or into the adjacent retina.

Vitreal inflammation (Figure 12 and Figure 13) is characterized by prominent accumulations of inflammatory cells in the vitreous. Vitreal inflammation can result from trauma (e.g., from intravitreal injections or other penetrating injury) or as a primary effect of intravitreally or systemically administered toxins. It can also occur secondary to other ocular lesions, such as cataracts and retinal inflammation. Chronic inflammatory infiltrates are often accompanied by vitreal fibrosis.
Retrobulbar inflammation (Figure 14 and Figure 15) is most frequently caused by trauma due to retrobulbar bleeding procedures and is typically acute. It is often accompanied by hemorrhage.

In NTP studies, there are five standard categories of inflammation: acute, suppurative, chronic, chronic-active, and granulomatous. In acute inflammation, the predominant infiltrating cell is the neutrophil, though fewer macrophages and lymphocytes may also be present. There may also be evidence of edema or hyperemia. The neutrophil is also the predominant infiltrating cell type in suppurative inflammation, however, in suppurative inflammation, the neutrophils are aggregated and many of them are degenerate (suppurative exudate). Cell debris, both from the resident cell populations and infiltrating leukocytes, proteinaceous fluid containing fibrin, fewer macrophages, occasional lymphocytes or plasma cells, and, possibly, an infectious agent may also be present in within the exudate. Grossly, these lesions would be characterized by the presence of pus. In the tissue surrounding the exudate, there may be fibroblasts, fibrous connective tissue, and mixed inflammatory cells, depending on the chronicity of the lesion. Lymphocytes predominate in chronic inflammation. Lymphocytes also predominate in chronic-active inflammation, but in chronic-active inflammation, there are also a significant number of neutrophils. Both lesions may contain macrophages. Granulomatous inflammation is another form of chronic inflammation, but this diagnosis requires the presence of a significant number of aggregated, large, activated macrophages, epithelioid macrophages, or multinucleated giant cells. Inflammation is differentiated from cellular infiltrates by the presence of other changes, such as edema, hemorrhage, degeneration, necrosis, or other evidence of tissue damage.

**Recommendation:** Inflammation in the eye should be diagnosed and graded whenever present. Inflammation should be diagnosed separately for each ocular structure (e.g., cornea, anterior chamber, iris, ciliary body, retina). The modifier as “retrobulbar” should be used if the inflammation is in the retrobulbar space. An appropriate type modifier (acute, chronic, etc.) should be included in the diagnosis. Two or more subtopographies (e.g., ciliary body and iris) should not be used in the same line-entry diagnosis. Associated lesions, such as fibrosis or neovascularization should not be diagnosed separately, unless warranted by severity, but should be described in the pathology narrative.
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