In 2018, researchers at Emory Eye Center published the first report of pigmentary maculopathy assocaited with Elmiron® use.

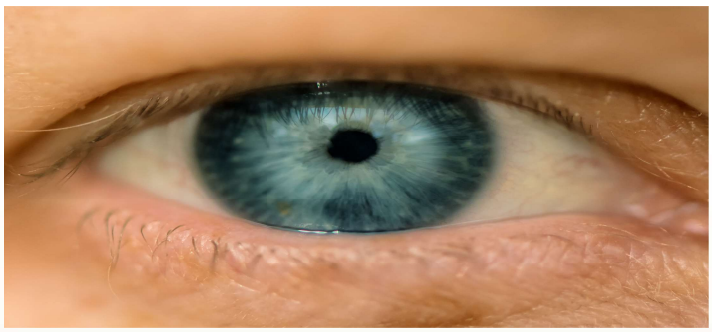
Following the first report of retinal damage associated with Elmiron® use, the reports in the medical literature of eye damage and vision loss associated with Elmiron® keep growing.

EMORY EYE CENTER

In 2018, eye doctors published the first findings of a unique pigmentary maculopathy associated with long term use of Elmiron. Patients reported symptoms of difficulty reading and prolonged dark adaptation despite generally intact visual acuity and subtle funduscopic findings In their paper, the reported several Elmiron users that underwent a clinical examination, retinal imaging, and visual function assessment with static perimetry and electroretinography. On fundus examination, nearly all eyes showed subtle paracentral hyperpigmentation at the level of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) with a surrounding array of vitelliform-like deposits. Multimodal retinal imaging demonstrated abnormality of the RPE generally contained in a well-delineated area in the posterior pole.

KAISER PERMANENTE

Vora, et al. recently published their results which examined 140 patients using Elmiron® five years or more. Their results revealed 24% of Elmiron® patients who came in for eye examinations demonstrated retinal damage and visual symptoms as reported by the original Emory study.



ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS

Winegelaar, et al. recently reported a case of a woman in her 40's reporting no symptoms who had evidence of retinal damage.

REQUIRED EYE EXAMS

Recent recommendations for Elmiron® users require that a baseline eye exam be taken before beginning the drug. Patients should also have annual eye exams after five years on the drug.

Eye doctors should perform a clinical examination, including a detailed examination of the macula and retina. The eye examination should also include optical coherence tomography (OCT) and fundus photography, including fundus photography using auto-fluorescence to evaluate the retinal pigment epithelium for any abnormalities.