

Visual Impairment Services Highland

The condition is known as WAGR Syndrome. This tumour is associated with a genetic fault along the short arm of the 11th chromosome and affects the renal area. Children with anaridia are usually given regular scans to ensure that the tumour is not present and if unfortunately it is then a range of treatment including chemotherapy and surgery can almost certainly rectify the situation.



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Anaridia is a rare congenital (present at birth) eye condition. It is characterised by the absence of the iris although this description alone can be misleading since other parts of the eye such as the cornea, the lens, the retina and the optic nerve may be affected.

The condition usually affects both eyes and manifests itself in two ways. It can be hereditary in which case it will be passed from one generation to the next since a genetic problem would be present, or it is sporadic which means that the genetics of the affected person are altered during gestation making them the first in the family history to have the condition. In either case there is a one in two chance of the condition being passed on to any children of the person having anaridia.

The lack of the iris is not usually the major detriment of visual function. Poor visual acuity is more likely to be associated with absence of the macular reflex, optic nerve hypoplasia (where the nerve begins to grow then stops for no apparent reason before full development) and the potential development of cataracts, glaucoma and cornea opacities.

People with anaridia can be affected in many ways and to various degrees with visual acuity ranging from mild with correctable vision to very poor.

Besides the above mentioned ocular abnormalities associated with anaridia there is also another condition which is not so common but nevertheless a possibility which has to be looked for and monitored from an early age.