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Iridology: an introduction

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What is Iridology?

"Around the pupil of each of your eyes is a structure for which conventional science has, as yet, no full explanation.

In our terms, it is a recognised indicator of heredity, differentiated primarily by colour: the iris".

Practical Iridology: using the eye as a guide to health risks and wellbeing by Peter Jackson-Main, 2023

- Iridology is a naturopathic 'diagnostic' technique
- Each iris is unique
- 'Blueprint' of your genetics
- The way the iris displays can give us insight into a person's health susceptibility, or clues to what may be driving their health issues

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History of Iridology

We think it may have been used as early as ancient Egypt.

Modern day iridology began in the 1800s.

Ignatz von Peczely (Hungarian) began being interested in the iris from a young age. His interest led him to study it over his long life, it led him to train as an MD to be able to access cadavers and to link iris signs to dis-ease states. He published 'Discoveries in the Realm of Nature and Art of Healing' in 1880.

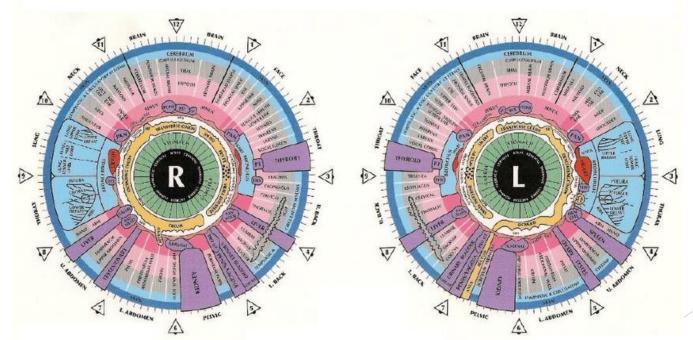
In the 1900s, Joseph Deck founded the Iridology Research Institute in Ettlingen, Germany. He regarded the iris as an indicator of genotype. He wrote 'The Principles of Iris Diagnosis' in 1965.



History of Iridology

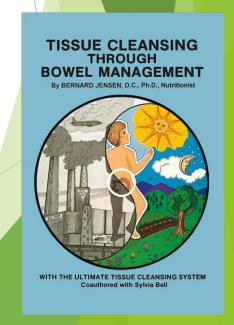
Dr Bernard Jensen and Dr John R. Christopher were Americans who studied iridology too and published their own books.

Jensen's iris chart/map was probably the most influential and is often still used today.



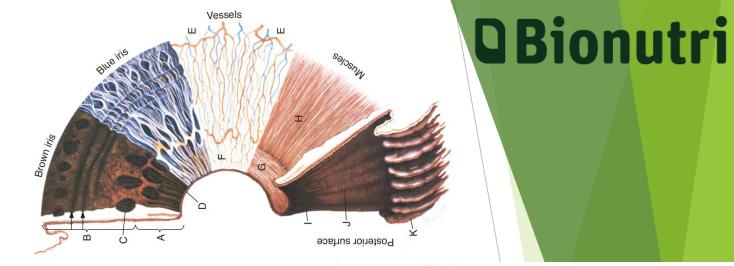






The Iris

The iris is a donut-like shape. With the muscles being deep in the structure and the stroma being in front.

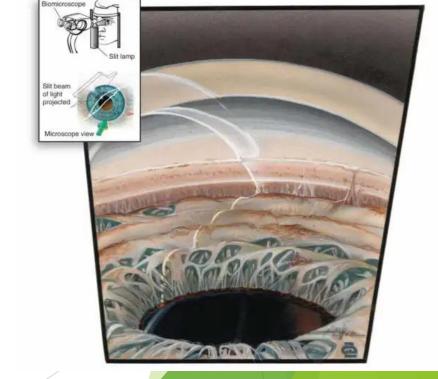


Stroma –

This connective tissue holds thousands of vascular filaments and nerve endings.

The stroma has around 28,000 'blind' nerve endings, which lead back to a special part of the thalamus called the 'lateral genicular body'. This could be where they connect to the rest of the organs in the body. Modern science cannot yet explain this phenomenon.

The theory is - it could be a feedback system.



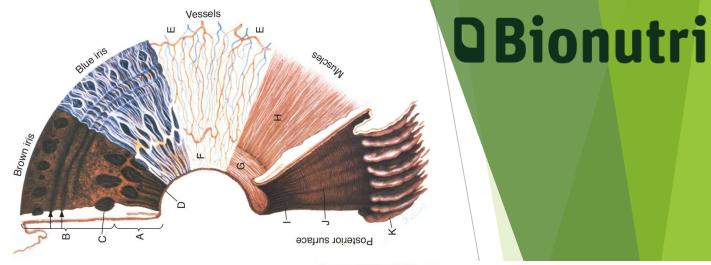
https://eyeanatomyblog.wordpress.com/2012/10/02/the-iris-part-2/

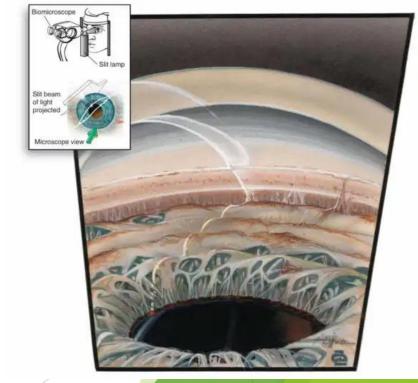
The Iris

The iris fully develops at around 3-4 months old. It is totally unique, no two irises are the same. Pigmentation can occur up until teen years and some other

iris signs can be acquired over time, due to age-related issues.

At the base of every iris is a layer of tissue called the base leaf, which is dark blue in everyone. Blue eyes occur because the fibres above are white or pale grey. For brown or hazel eyes, pigment-secreting cells are creating a darker pigment, which is needed for UV protection, akin to melanin in skin. These cells in blue eyes are dormant.





https://eyeanatomyblog.wordpress.com/2012/10/02/the-iris-part-2/



Different types of Iridology

There are several different variants of iridology. Some focus on the pupillary ruff (edges the pupil) for example.

There are different iris charts too, but the bulk of the information is very similar.

We will focus on physical signs (there are also emotional/behavourial)

- Colour types
- Muscle types
- Smaller signs

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Benefits of using Iridology in practice

- ✓ Gives a focus
- ✓ Pinpoint key driver
- ✓ Reveal a missing link
- ✓ Ease-for practitioner
- ✓ Non-invasive
- ✓ Free of cost
- ✓ Fast results



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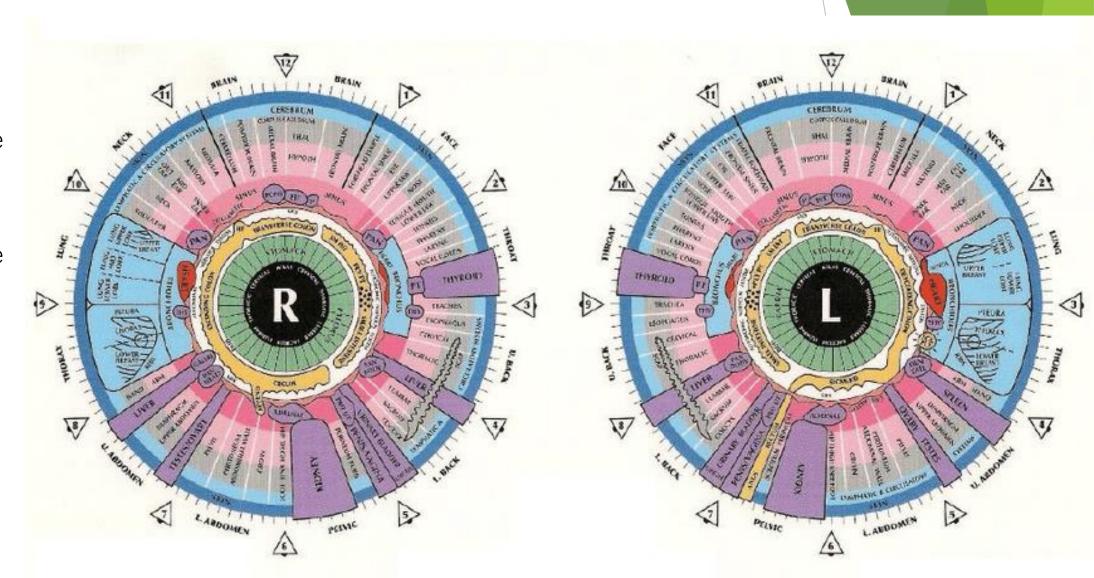
Jensen Iridology map/chart

Right eye

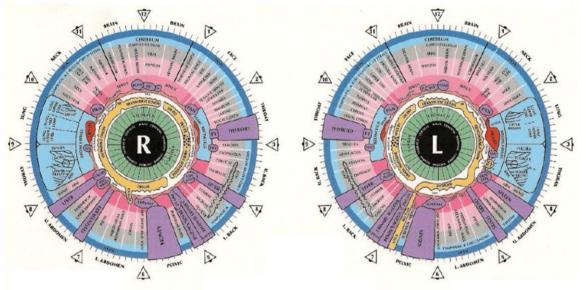
Paternal influence

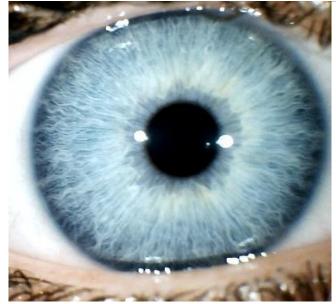
Left Iris

Maternal influence



Jensen Iridology map/chart Certain areas of the iris correlates to certain organs - similar to reflexology

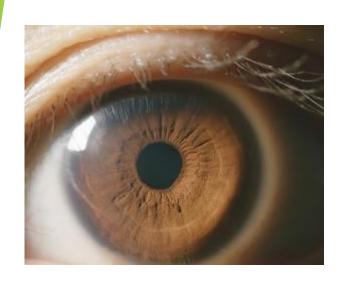


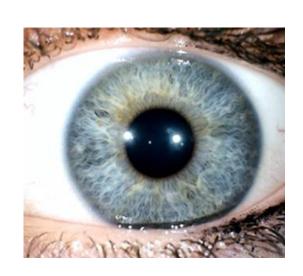




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Constitutional types - colour







Constitutional types: brown

Brown (Haematogenic)

- 60% of the world's population
- Uniform pigment that penetrates all four layers of the stroma
- Of African or Asian decent adaption to hotter climates
- Fever is a more serious sign

Key:

- ✓ Blood dynamics and composition e.g. blood pressure and circulation
- ✓ Less reactivity/inflammatory response in mucus membranes, skin and lymph
- ✓ Late-onset issues chronic disease shows up later in life
- ✓ A tendency toward accumulation





Constitutional types: brown

Brown (Haematogenic)

<u>Challenges:</u>

- Blood sugar imbalances inc. diabetes
- High triglycerides
- Circulatory issues
- Heavy clotted menses in women
- Kidney stones, lumps, cysts and tumours



"The study found that the chance of developed diabetes was significantly higher for black adults than for white adults. They found that biological risk factors accounted for most of the health disparity". https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29279935/

Constitutional types: brown

Nutrition

- ✓ Blood supporting fresh plants, especially green and red.
- ✓ Mineral-rich fruit and vegetables
- ✓ A diet more akin to native roots (hot countries) e.g. spices, lots of plants
- Refined sugars
- Saturated fats and trans fats





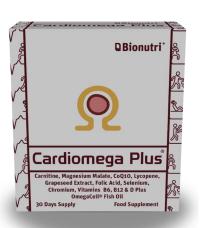


Constitutional types: brown

Herbs

- Circulation garlic, ginger, rosemary, cayenne, cinnamon, cumin, coriander, clove, cardamon, black pepper
- **Heart supporting** artichoke, hawthorn, nettle













Constitutional types: brown

<u>Lifestyle</u>

Exercise that focuses on heart health and blood sugar support:

- Resistance training
- Aerobic work

Keeping warm in a cold environments









Blue (Lymphatic)

- 8-10% of world's population
- Can have different shades of blue
- No pigment, just white or grey fibres on top of the blue stroma
- Naturally adapted to cooler climates
- Easy on-set of fever

<u>Key</u>:

- ✓ Reactivity from responsive inflammation (early-onset dis-ease)
- ✓ Lymph system hence name
- ✓ Elimination, detoxification & immunity

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Blue (Lymphatic)

Challenges:

- ✓ Upper respiratory tract issues
- ✓ Atopic asthma, eczema, hay-fever
- ✓ ENT issues sinuses, infections, tonsils
- ✓ Autoimmunity
- ✓ IBS (reactivity)
- ✓ Prone to degenerative diseases

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Nutrition

- ✓ Hydration and electrolyte balance
- ✓ High amounts of fruits and vegetables
- ✓ EFAs omega 3
- Dairy products
- ⊗ Refined carbs hard to eliminate the byproducts (uric and lactic acid)
- © Coffee and alcohol (adds to dehydration)















- Alternatives/cleansers dandelion, burdock, nettle, cleavers, red clover
- Immunomodulators echinacea, garlic, ginseng, elderberry, elderflower
- Carminatives ginger, spearmint, rosemary









<u>Lifestyle</u>

- **Hydrotherapy** cold water therapy (caution with those with low vitality)
- Skin Brushing move lymph
- Supporting liver diet and balancing anger









Mixed (Mixed Biliary)

- Can appear hazel or green
- They can be quite dark or quite light
- Mix of two constitutions (brown and blue)

Key:

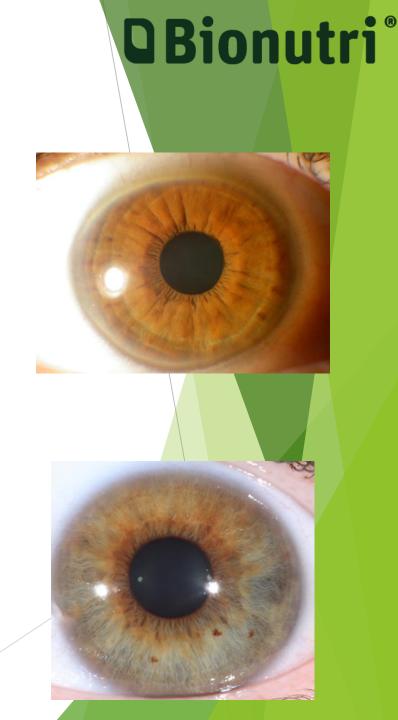
- ✓ Digestive concerns (exocrine) low secretions
- ✓ Biliary system is susceptible and pancreas
- ✓ Low absorption can lead to HPO and HPA imbalances



Mixed (Mixed Biliary)

Challenges:

- Bloating, indigestion, belching, flatulence
- Greasy stools, poor stool formation
- Low absorption
- Candida/yeast overgrowths
- SIBO
- Long term hormonal imbalances



Nutrition

- ✓ Smaller meals not overloading digestion
- ✓ Chewing well and eating consciously
- ✓ Food combining avoiding starchy carbs with meat
- ✓ Vegetable juices to optimise vitamins and minerals
- Dairy products





<u>Herbs</u>

- Bitter herbs artichoke, dandelion, gentian, chamomile, wormwood
- Carminatives mint, rosemary, basil, oregano













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Constitutional types: mixed

<u>Lifestyle</u>

Movement after meals

- Walking
- Stretching

Yoga poses

- Headstand
- Floor twists
- Triangle pose



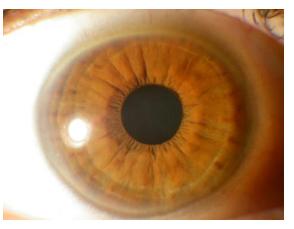




Structure/disposition types

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Structure/disposition types: Neurogenic

High-Resistance (Neurogenic)

- "strong constitution"
- Fibres are close together
- ✓ Stamina & endurance
- ✓ Resist microbes and pathogens more easily
- ⊗ Can easily over-do it / lack of rest
- ☼ End up relying on caffeine and stimulants
- ☼ Prone therefore to adrenal issues & nervous system diseases





Structure/disposition types: Neurogenic

Nutrition

Nervous system support

- B vitamins, vitamin C
- Magnesium
- Wholegrains a need for 'good' carbs
- Avoid stimulants sugar, caffeine etc..







Structure/disposition types: Neurogenic

Herbs

- Adaptogens ashwagandha, ginseng, licorice
- Nervines wild oat, vervain, chamomile, passionflower, valerian

Flower Essences

- Cherry Plum fear of loss of control
- Chestnut bud failure to learn from past mistakes
- Impatiens suited for those easily irritated
- Oak strong but keeps going when exhausted
- Vine dominant personalities
- Vervain over-enthusiasm, with fixed ideas





Structure/disposition types: Neurogenic

<u>Lifestyle</u>

- Learning to say no!
- Learning patience
- Learning relaxation
- Regular exercise to release endorphins
- HIIT can suit this type if not already burnt out





Structure/disposition types: Self-protective

Self-protective (Larvate Tetanic)

- Contraction furrows (rings outer iris)
- Radial furrows (like spokes of a bike)
- ✓ High resistance, driven often by anxiety
- ✓ Confident exterior often hides a vulnerable person inside
- ✓ Sociable but need time to retreat
- Large amounts of energy used
- Pressure on gut, nerve supply to gut can be restricted
- ☼ Cramps muscular, digestive and menstrual





Structure/disposition types: Self-protective

Nutrition

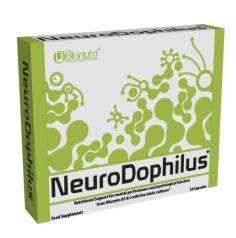
Nervous system support

- B vitamins, magnesium, vitamin C, theanine
- Wholegrains a need for 'good' carbs
- Avoid stimulants sugar, caffeine etc.

Colourful fruit and veg

Superfoods and antioxidants

Mineral rich









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Structure/disposition types: Self-protective

Herbs

- Relaxants wild oat, vervain, cramp bark
- Digestive bitters (dandelion, yarrow, artichoke)
- Adaptogens ginseng, schisandra

Flower Essences

- Oak strong but keeps going when exhausted
- Agrimony seem carefree but suffer anxiety underneath
- Aspen worrier
- Elm overwhelmed by responsibility
- Olive exhausted in body and mind









Structure/disposition types: Self-protective

Lifestyle

Bodywork

- Massage
- Osteopathy
- Yoga

Learning to let go

Meditation

Vagus nerve toning







Structure/disposition types: Polyglandular

Glandular-Emotional (Polyglandular)

- Lots of lacunae (looks like holes) outside collarette
- Focus on hormonal/endocrine system
- ✓ High energy output
- ✓ Driven by strong emotions wear their hearts on their sleeves
- Mood swings
- © Erratic functioning of glands pituitary, thyroid, adrenals and pancreas
- ⊗ Perimenopausal issues can be heightened, T2D risk
- © Unmanaged hormones in younger years can become chronic when older



Structure/disposition types: Polyglandular

Nutrition

Eat little and often

Food combining – to make it easier on pancreas

Hormone support

- B vitamins, especially B6
- Chromium and zinc

Avoid sugars







Structure/disposition types: Polyglandular

Herbs (endocrine supportive)

- Pituitary dong quai, gingko biloba
- Thyroid kelp, nettle, sarsaparilla
- Pancreas bitters, dandelion, artichoke
- Adrenals ginseng, licorice









Structure/disposition types: Polyglandular

<u>Lifestyle</u>

Exercise

- Yoga
- Tai chi
- Qi gong

Resistance training — muscle mass





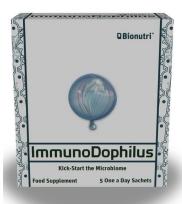
Structure/disposition types: Gastric

Similar to Poly-Glandular (sub-type)

- Lacunae on inside of collarette
- Rely on 'gut instinct' types
- Challenges candida, colitis, diverticulitis, SIBO, constipation
- Support fibre, antimicrobials, microbiome, bitters, avoid empty calories











Structure/disposition types: Flexible-Adaptive/CT

Flexible-Adaptive (Connective Tissue weakness)

- Low density fibres (opposite to neurogenic)
- More light can enter the inner iris and stimulate reflex sites and nerves
- ✓ More adaptive in personality and can make lifestyle adjustments to their health more easily than a neurogenic can
- ✓ Receptive to change
- ☼ Less robust connective tissue weakness in organs
- ☼ Injury prone hypermobility can be present



Structure/disposition types: F-A/Connective Tissue

Nutrition

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Naturally cleansing foods

Key nutrients:

- Protein
- Vitamin C
- Rutin
- Glucosamine
- Collagen
- Zinc
- D3, K2, Mg, Ca









Structure/disposition types: F-A/Connective Tissue

Herbs

Adaptogens – ashwagandha, ginseng, astragalus

Connective tissue – horsetail, gotu kola

Cleansing tissues – nettle, dandelion, cleavers, red clover











Structure/disposition types: F-A/Connective Tissue

Lifestyle

Exercise (core strengthening)

- Pilates
- Yoga
- Swimming

Prolapse Support

- Pilates
- Hypopressives
- Women's health physio

Relaxation techniques



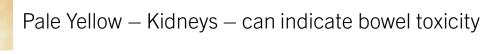




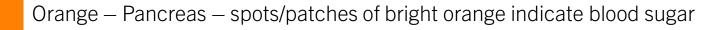
Pigment

Dyscratic overlay — tendency to toxic overloading of blood, lymph and connective tissue. Risk of liver, gallbladder and pancreatic imbalances.

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Yellow — Liver/gallbladder — intolerance to rich & high fat foods



Brown — Liver/colon — often around centre but can be spots/patches — toxicity/constipation

Black - Lymph/immune - spots/freckles - low immunity, depression, overthinking

Pink — Stomach — in stomach zone, low enzymes/secretions, ulceration risk





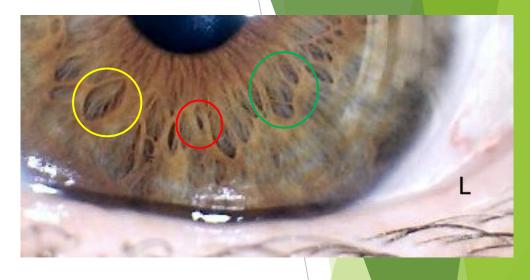
Structural Signs: Lacunae

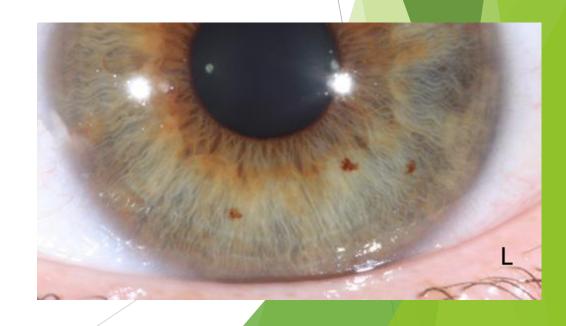
Disruptions in the iris fibres indicate an area that needs: restoring, nourishing, strengthening, stimulating, improving blood flow, enhancing lymph movement or boosting energy.

Closed Lacuna (yellow)

- Have a complete fibre border
- Most common type of lacuna
- Often shows where an ancestor had trouble







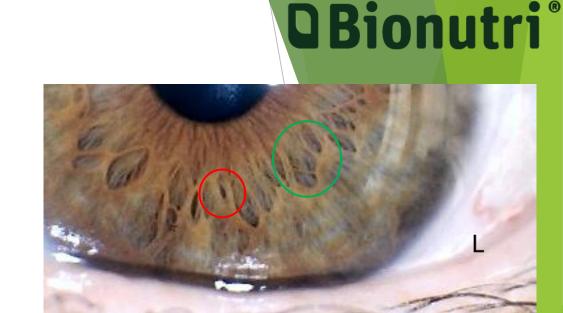
Structural Signs: Lacunae

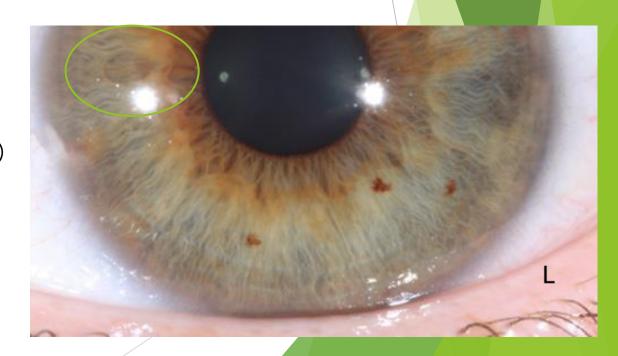
Disruptions in the iris fibres indicate an area that needs: restoring, nourishing, strengthening, stimulating, improving blood flow, enhancing lymph movement or boosting energy.

Open Lacuna (green)

- Has a fibre border but opens up
- Potentially more serious
- Here is a thyroid sign (mother had overactive thyroid)
- Needs focused support

The 'deeper' the lacuna, the more serious a sign



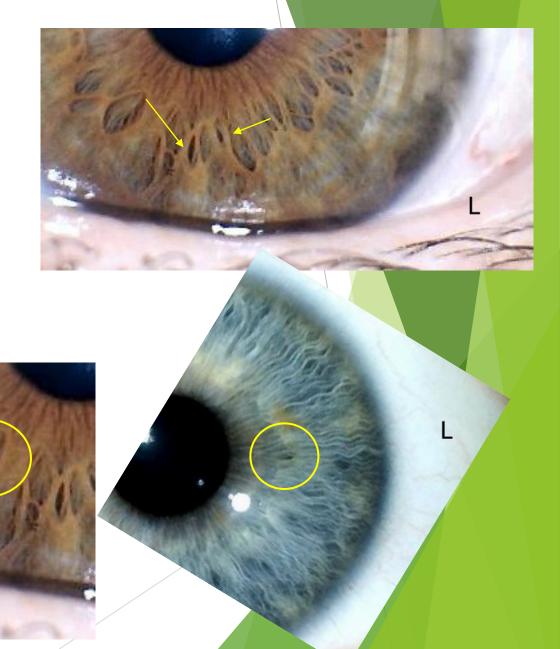


Structural Signs: Lacunae

Crypts

- Like a closed lacuna, but it penetrates deep into layers
- Often found in intestinal zone
- Risk of degeneration of processes
- Can be linked to susceptibility to parasites
- They can be found within lacuna which can be an area

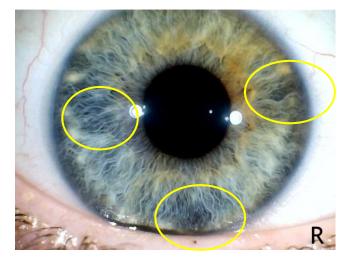
where parasites like to reside

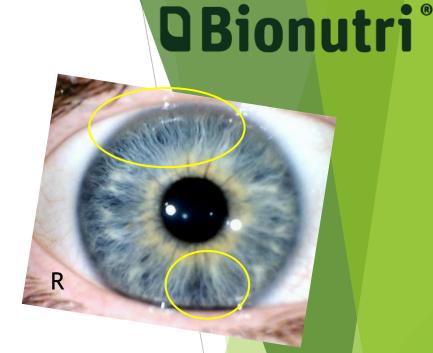


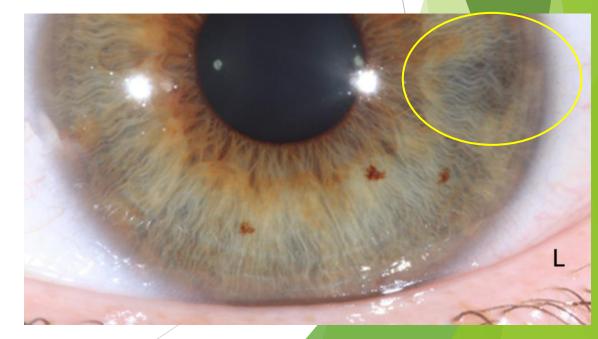
Lacunae

Rarefaction

- Variations in fibre density with no border
- Appears looser and darker
- Low vitality/energy in organ
- Affected organ may need energising







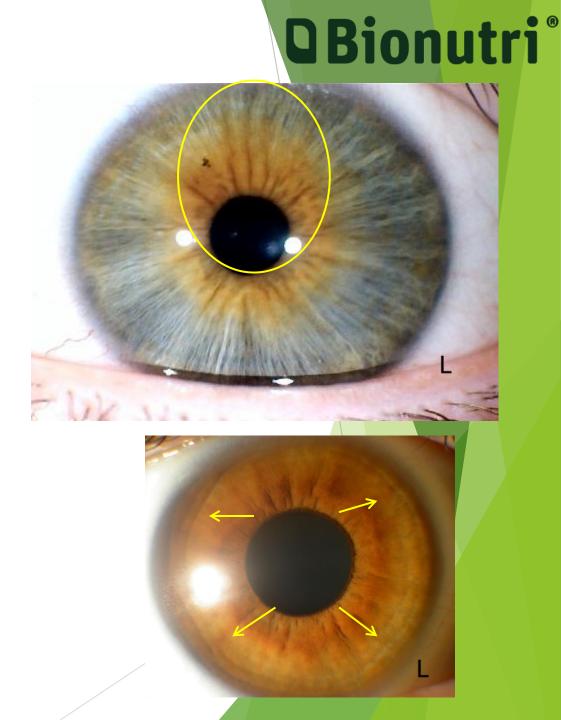
Furrows (in both are present = self-protective type)

Radial furrows

- Major Go from pupil to outer edge = Weakening of the autonomic NS
- Minor go to the collarette
- Both signs of potential toxic leakage from a congested bowel

Contraction furrows

- Ripples around the outer edge of iris
- Portrays nervous tension
- Breaks in the rings emphasises problematic areas
- Portrays internal angst and turmoil need to learn to find freedom physically and emotionally



Fibre Signs

Irritation fibre (yellow)

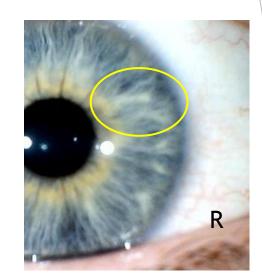
- Bright/white strand that runs from collarette to the edge
- Signifies reactivity in that organ area

Transversal fibre (green)

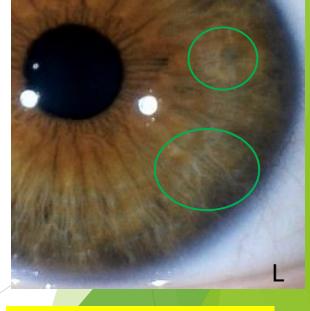
- Runs across the iris, perpendicular to irritation fibre
- Acute or chronic inflammation and potential damage to tissue

Vascularisation

 Red fibre in the iris from engorged blood. Can be caused by physical trauma or can be a sign of stored emotions







Spleen-heart transverse = risk for heart attacks

Collarette Signs

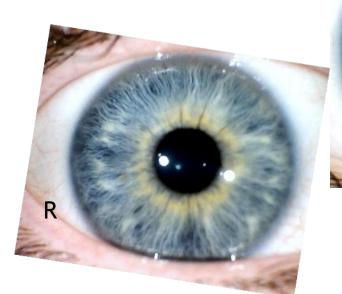
The collarette is the reflex site for the autonomic nervous system

Prominent & White/bright

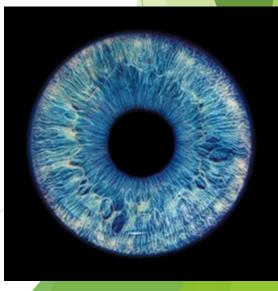
- Could indicate IBS
- Look at nervous factors involved

Invisible or thin

- Could be sluggishness
- Need to stimulate enzymes & secretions







Collarette Signs

The collarette is the reflex site for the autonomic nervous system

Wide/expanded

- A focus on bowel health
- If the fibres are loose in the pupillary zone could indicate atonal constipation
- Lacuna in the collarette can point toward diverticular

Contracted

- Constipation caused by spasms
- Need for relaxation



The outer edge

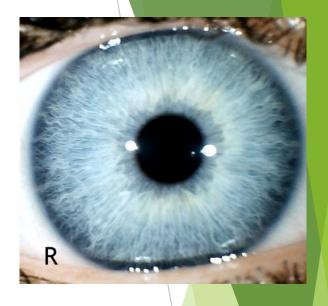
Scurf Rim

- Dark band on outer edge of iris
- Under-reactivity of skin = congestion
- Eczema, acne, sensitivity, itchiness or dry skin

Venous Ring

- Blue tinge on edge
- Core congestion & liver stagnation
- Varicosed veins & haemorrhoid risk

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The outer edge

Cholesterol Ring

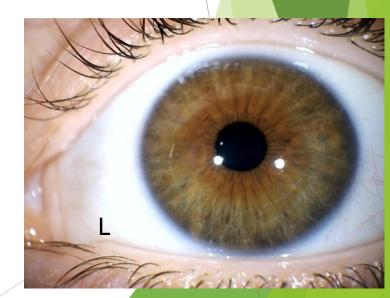
- Acquired sign
- Medically recognised sign in cornea
- Can mean high blood fats, insufficient nourishment & oxygenation
- Complete ring can indicate coronary artery blockages

Anaemia Ring

- Fuzzy edges/blurred
- Indicates cold extremities / lack of blood to hands & feet







Allergy Sign

Signs:

- Redness and small red vessels in white of the eyes invading the iris border
- Seen in all colour types

Increased immune reactivity — it is acquired over lifetime

May have true allergies or may be just food intolerance and hay-fever

Aim: Strengthen digestion, energy and removing toxicity











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Behavioural Iridology

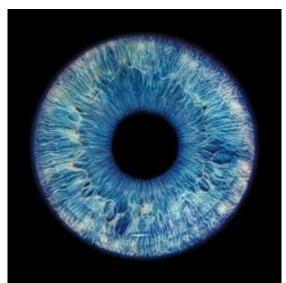
Complex part of Iridology

There are two main polarities of personalities — 'Thinker' and 'Emotional'

Pigment = thinker



Lacunae = emotional



Behavioural Iridology

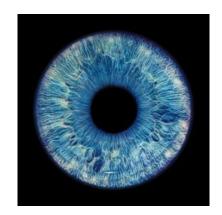
Pigment = thinker



- Reason, logic, analysis, intuitive
- Left-brain dominant
- Opinionated and think they're right
- Strong desire to understand
- Not morning people
- May inherit more form father's line

<u>Lessons</u>: learning to let go and trust in the unknown <u>Challenges</u>: poor sleep, critical of others, worriers **Q**Bionutri

Lacunae = emotional



- Passionate, joyful, spontaneous, creative
- Right-brain dominant
- Centre of the party, like attention
- Usually close to their fathers, or wish so

<u>Lessons</u>: taking responsibility in their lives

Challenges: anger and blame

Behavioural: secondary modifier of personality

Neurogenic/close fibres = empath



- Agreeable, enjoy calm and solitude of nature
- Like to create harmony and balance
- Highly intuitive and sensitive
- Have a practical approach to life

<u>Challenges</u>: anxiety, frustration, over-compromise, avoid conflict

Lessons: express hearts desire, be individual

Pigment + lacunae = driver



- Dynamic personality
- Driven to initiate and make change to themselves and others
- Diverse interests, can assimilate large amounts of energy

<u>Challenges</u>: loneliness and bitterness, they need constant stimulation
<u>Lessons</u>: learning to delegate



A bit about the pupils

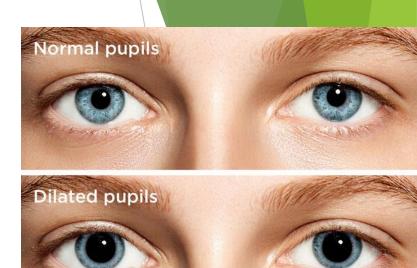
The size of the pupils can provide some insight into working of the nervous system

Pupils that appear often larger:

- Sympathetic nervous system dominance
- Potentially more extraverted
- Often an active person, open, trusting, enjoys challenges
- Tendency to over-stimulate adrenals

Pupils that appear often smaller:

- Parasympathetic nervous system dominance
- Potentially more introverted
- May be distrusting and careful. May become demotivated easily or sleep too much

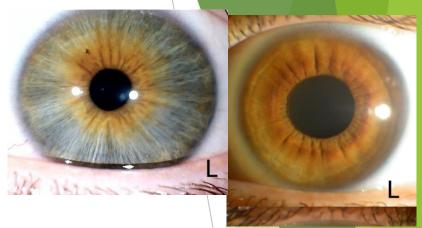


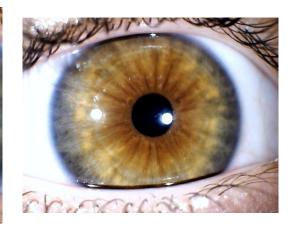




Sudden change in pupil size, especially if they aren't equal needs medical attention







Remember if you use a mirror for self-assessment, iris is reversed

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

222

Sleeping and feeding times are important TEAR THE SE SALADS determinants of overall health. Sleep 7-9 hours ideally starting before midnight. Eat regular meals and avoid snacking.

EAT A RAINBOW 7 a day

(5 veg and 2 fruit)

ROOT VEG

EXERCISE

Keep moving and stay active. Use the stairs, walk whenever you can. Walk an extra stop. Park further away. Stand rather than sit at your desk.

> Eat root vegetables as well as whole grains (like wild and brown rice, whole oats, quinoa).

Limit refined grains (like pasta and bread) which affect the body in a similar way to sugar.

SALADS & **VEGETABLES**

Unlimited salads, leafy greens and vegetables, excluding root vegetables.

DRINKS

Drink water, tea (black, green fruit and herbal infusions), avoid drinks that are high in sugar or artificial sweeteners including fruit juice.

FRUIT

Eat 1-3 palm-sized portions of fruit a day. Berries in abundance and local and seasonal fruit.



THE SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR NUTRITION HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.



OILS

Use olive oil as your everyday fat for both cooking and seasoning, and butter in moderation. Avoid margarines and trans fats. Eat raw nuts. seeds and avocados.

Make fish, poultry and eggs your principal sources of protein, and eat lean red meat, bacon and other processed meats only occasionally. Eat pulses (lentils, beans, chickpeas) and nuts and seeds as vegetable protein. Limit dairy to a small matchbox of cheese, half a cup of live unsweetened yoghurt or a small glass of milk a day.

THE WELLNESS SOLUTION

OTHER VEG

Multi-vitamin and extra vitamin D for

most people. Probiotics and blood sugar support, as advised by nutrition healthcare professional.



September 2022 @ BANT

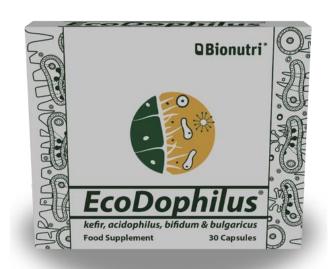
EcoDophilus®

Resident dominant bacteria (L. acidophilus & B. lactis)

- Reduces risk of pathogenic proliferation
- Colonises small and large intestine
- Helps balance inflammatory processes

Transient (L. bulgaricus & L. kefir)

- Enables other good bacteria to flourish
- For sensitive clients and long-term maintenance
- Dose can be increased in cases of gastroenteritis
- ➤ Can be titrated for difficult complex cases
- Human-strain probiotics





<u>Carotone®</u>

- Zeaxanthin
- Astaxanthin
- Lycopene and Lutein
- Beta carotene & CoQ10
- Vitamin E, D3 & K2
- ➤ Especially supportive for eyes health and protection from skin damage
- > Potent antioxidant for cellular health
- Mixed in avocado oil as the fatty acid profile is the perfect carrier for lipid nutrients



Practitioner Support (technical support)

Practitioner area on our website — www.bionutri.co.uk

- upcoming <u>free</u> webinars
- previous CPD webinars
- product info
- technical team contact details

Practitioner Facebook group & page — facebook.com/bionutriuk

- fellow practitioners
- responsive help from technical team

1:1 Technical Support — via Zoom, Teams, phone, email

- Sue McGarrigle ND, mBANT, mGNC
- Edward Joy, Herbalist
- Rosie Rayner, ND, mANP

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Thank you

- Sister company Aquasol ______
- We don't use gluten or yeast-containing ingredients
- Samples for sensitive clients & kinesiology
- www.bionutri.co.uk
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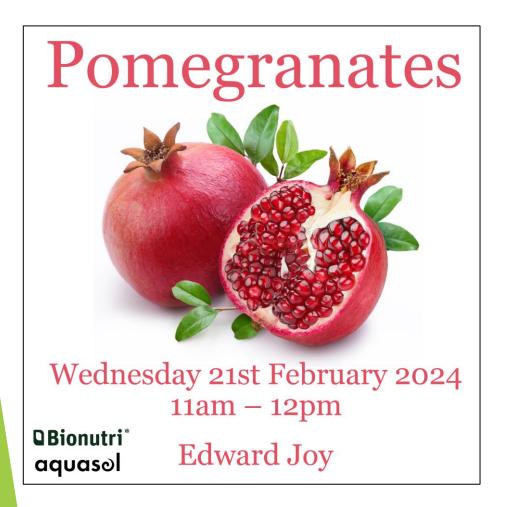


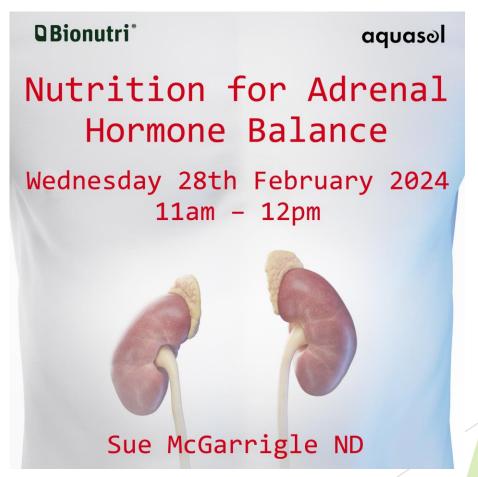




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February webinars







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