Axenfeld Nerve Loop

These are rare congenital anomaly that can be confused with naevi or even melanomas or cysts.

The long posterior ciliary nerve is not normal seen as it is inside the outer coat of the eye. However rarely it can make a loop through the sclera (outer coat of the eye) close to the anterior ciliary arteries. The loop appears as a smooth dome shaped elevation about 2mm in diameter. The loop may appear cystic or pigmented but is in fact not. They are rarely bilateral (1% of cases) and rarely there are more than one in one eye (0.5%).

As they are nerves pain can be elicited if they are touched or pressed.

Treatment.

None – specifically as they are not cysts etc they should not be operated on.

They are harmless and need no treatment.



It is named after Theodor Axenfeld who was a German Ophthalmologist (1867 to 1930). He was involved in many areas of Ophthalmology and wrote over 200 works. He was the first to describe this.

Mr. Lee 2011