



## Case Type

Elmiron



## General Background

Elmiron is a blood thinner used to treat interstitial cystitis, a chronic condition that causes irritation and inflammation of the bladder. The majority of Elmiron's side effects are mild and include conditions such as diarrhea, hair loss, nausea, and headaches. However, there is mounting scientific evidence that Elmiron can be toxic to the retina, the tissue behind the eye that senses light.

In 2018, the Emory Eye Center found that long-term use of Elmiron is linked to pigmentary maculopathy, which affects central vision in both eyes. The only known cause of this rare, irreversible eye disease is Elmiron, and the condition can occur within a few years of use.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Elmiron, is a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson. Since 2020, hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against them after individuals reported vision problems leading to blindness, including pigmentary maculopathy. These lawsuits claim that Janssen Pharmaceuticals failed to warn doctors and patients of Elmiron's potential to cause serious vision problems until they updated Elmiron's prescribing information in June 2020.

## Criteria

- Have taken Elmiron for at least three years prior to developing serious vision problems
- Have been diagnosed with pigmentary maculopathy OR
- Experienced any of the following vision problems bilaterally (in both eyes):
  - ▶ Dark spots in the center of vision
  - ▶ Difficulty adjusting to darkness
  - ▶ Difficulty reading
  - ▶ Distorted vision
  - ▶ Muted, less vivid colors
  - ▶ Vision loss or disturbances