

CYSTOID MACULAR OEDEMA

The eye functions like a camera, with a lens in the front that focuses images onto the retina at the back. The retina contains specialized nerve cells that respond to light. Within the retina, the macula is located at the centre and plays a vital role in our central, high-quality vision. Occasionally, the macula can become swollen with fluid, a condition known as oedema. In the case of the macula, this fluid often forms cyst-like patterns, leading to a condition referred to as cystoid macular oedema.

Cystoid macular oedema can have various causes, including eye surgery (such as cataract surgery and retinal detachment repair), diabetes, age-related macular degeneration, retinal vein blockages, eye inflammation, eye injuries, and medication side effects.

CMO can present without any symptoms however patients can report “wavy” vision in particularly centrally.

Diagnosed with a dilated full eye examination, OCT and at times also a fluorescein angiography

Treatment for cystoid macular oedema must be recommended by an eye doctor, often involving evaluation by a retina specialist. Restoring normal vision is possible with treatment.

Identifying the underlying cause is crucial as treatment varies based on related conditions. Options may include topical therapy or injections around or within the eye. It is important to note that treatment may take time, but visual acuity often improves. Regular follow-up appointments with an eye doctor are necessary even after the oedema resolves to monitor for any potential recurrence.

Please contact us directly on 02 9635 0663 for general queries - for any urgent or After-hours Emergencies please contact Sydney Eye Hospital 9382 7111 and speak to the eye registrar