

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Diabetic retinopathy is a diabetes-related complication that can cause damage to the blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye.

To prevent vision loss and blindness from diabetic retinopathy, regular eye check-ups are crucial. It is important to note that all individuals with diabetes are susceptible to developing diabetic retinopathy and are more likely to experience vision loss than those without. The risk of loss of vision or blindness is inevitable without treatment

Since diabetic retinopathy often lacks noticeable early symptoms until it has progressed significantly, it is strongly recommended to schedule regular eye health check-ups with both optometrists and ophthalmologists. Additionally, maintaining proper diabetic control with the help of GP is of paramount importance in managing this condition.

There are three primary types of diabetic retinopathy:

1. Non-proliferative retinopathy: In its early stage, this type involves the leakage of fluid or bleeding from retinal blood vessels.
2. Macular oedema: This condition is characterized by swelling of the macula due to fluid leakage from retinal blood vessels, which can harm central vision.
3. Proliferative retinopathy: In its advanced stage, this type involves the replacement of retinal blood vessels with fragile, easily bleeding new vessels, potentially leading to sudden vision loss.

The available treatment options encompass medical interventions such as intravitreal treatment, laser therapy, and surgical procedures.

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.