Retinal vein occlusion and macular edema

In retinal vein occlusion, a blockage stops blood from leaving the eye normally.

Two major types
1. BRVO (branch retinal vein occlusion)
   Blockage occurs in one of the smaller, secondary (branch) veins in the back of the eye (retina).
2. CRVO (central retinal vein occlusion)
   Blockage occurs in the main (central) vein out of the retina.

Symptoms
- Sudden vision loss or blurring in all or part of one eye is most common
- However, gradual vision loss may occur in some patients (over days or weeks)

Known causes
- Diseases that may damage retinal blood vessels
  - Diabetes
  - High blood pressure
  - Glaucoma
  - Hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis)
- Blood clots
- Squeezing of the vein by a nearby retinal artery

Retinal blood vessels

BRVO

Blood clot

Squeezing

Optic nerve

Macula

Fovea

A healthy retina

BRVO

CRVO

Retinal photographs (called fundoscopy)
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