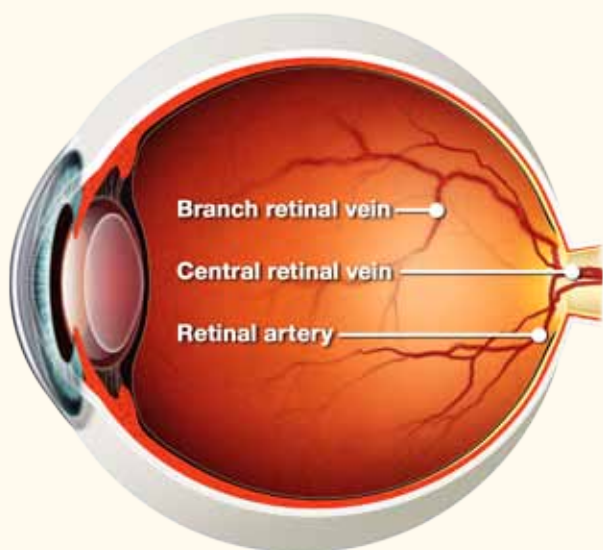


Retinal vein occlusion and macular edema

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

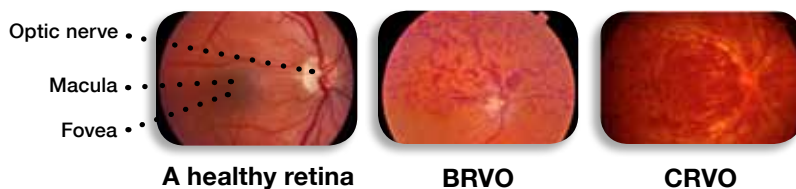
Retinal blood vessels



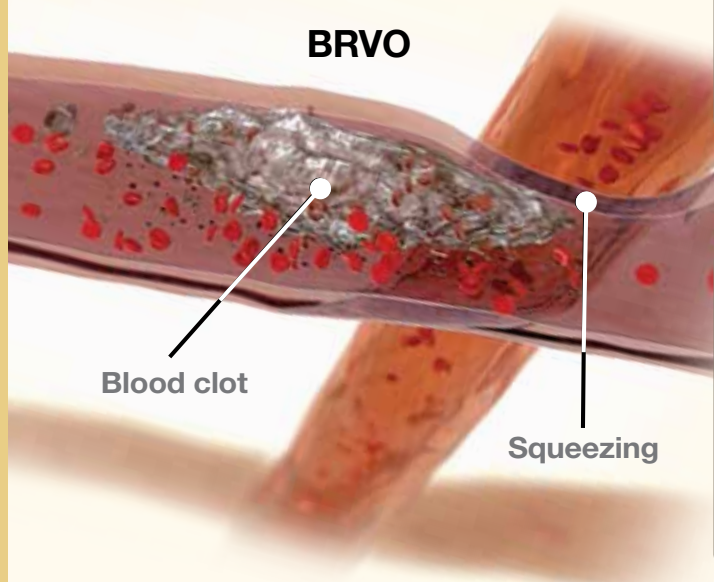
Two major types

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.

Retinal photographs (called funduscopy)



BRVO



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 vein occlusion and macular edema (continued)

Effects of retinal vein occlusion

- RVO may cause problems in the retina
- Bleeding
 - Small blood vessel (capillary) damage
 - Not enough oxygen

LEADING TO

Macular edema

- Inflamed, leaky small blood vessels cause retinal swelling (edema)
- Swelling in the center of the retina (the macula) is known as macular edema, which may affect your central vision

Inflammation

Capillary leakage

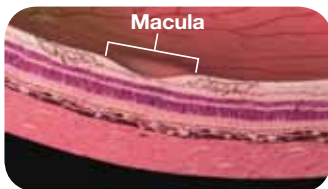
Growth of new blood vessels

Growth of new blood vessels

- Low oxygen triggers growth of new blood vessels, which may also reduce your vision

Understanding macular edema

A healthy retina and macula



Macular edema



Treatment

- Treatments are available for macular edema following retinal vein occlusion
- Your doctor will discuss these treatment options with you

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