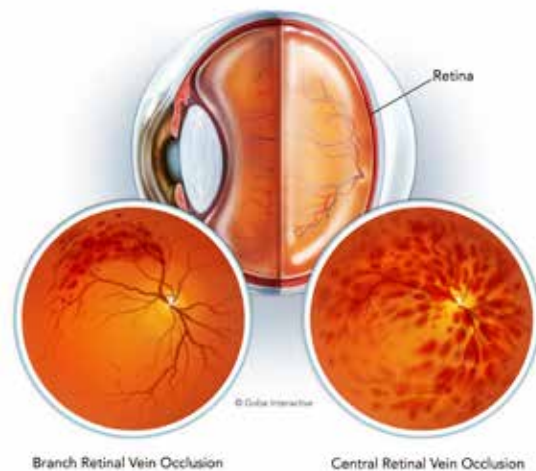


Retinal Vein Occlusion

Patient Checklist: Important Questions to Ask your Doctor



What is Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)?

Retinal vein occlusion (RVO) is a partial or complete blockage of a vein in the retina, a light-sensitive tissue in the back of the eye. A blockage of the central vein is called a central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) and blockage of smaller vein is called a branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO). RVO can cause vision loss by swelling of the macula - the central area of the retina (macular edema), bleeding in the retina, or abnormal blood vessel growth (neovascularization) in the eye.

BRVO is 6-7 times more common than CRVO. People who have RVO have an increased risk of other cardiovascular diseases (stroke, heart attack, heart failure and peripheral artery disease) and death. It is important to see your primary care provider (PCP) directly following an RVO diagnosis.

Some people will have no RVO symptoms at all.

Symptoms may include:

- Blurred vision
- Distorted vision (example: a straight line appearing bent)
- Increased floaters (spots or webs floating inside the eyes)
- Blind spot in vision
- Sudden loss of vision
- Pain or pressure in the eye

Below you will find a list of helpful questions to ask your doctor.

✓ Checklist

Eye Care Provider:

1. Do I have a central or branch retinal vein occlusion?
2. Do I have macular edema?
3. Do I need treatment?
4. What tests should my PCP complete?
5. When should I return to see you?
6. If you have reduced vision: Can a low vision specialist help me?
Who do you recommend?

Primary Care Provider:

1. If you have high blood pressure: What is my blood pressure goal?
Is my blood pressure well controlled?
2. If you have diabetes: What is my HbA1C goal? Is my diabetes well
controlled?
3. If you have high cholesterol: Is my cholesterol well controlled?
4. Do I have any signs or symptoms of sleep apnea? Should I be
tested?
5. Do you recommend any changes in my diet? Can you help me
make the changes or refer me to a nutritionist?
6. Am I at a healthy weight? Should I lose weight?
7. Do I have any other cardiac or stroke risk factors?

This checklist is intended for use as a patient aid to assist with your patient/doctor consultation. This is not an all-inclusive list of questions and does not constitute medical advice; nor is it intended to be a substitute for professional medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment.