

Understanding Your **RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION (RVO)**

Retinal vein occlusion (RVO) is a common disorder where the central vein in the eye (CRVO) or a branch of retinal vein (BRVO) becomes narrowed or obstructed (occluded). After diabetic retinopathy, RVO is one of the most frequent causes of blindness. Approximately 90% of cases of RVO occur in those ages 50 years and above.

What are the symptoms of RVO?

Obstruction of blood flow to the optic nerve can cause blurring of vision or visual loss, may range from mild to severe, and may occur suddenly or gradually over time. There may be pain and blindness in the affected eye.

How is an RVO detected?

Regular eye examinations are important to diagnose the problem early to provide the best chance to avoid permanent vision loss. An eye examination for RVO usually includes a range of tests to check vision accuracy, to study the eye itself and to detect the presence of swelling or blockages.

What are the risk factors of RVO?

Risk factors of RVO include:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes mellitus
- Cardiovascular disorders
- Bleeding or clotting disorders
- Vasculitis
- Autoimmune disorders
- Use of oral contraceptives
- Primary open-angle glaucoma or angle-closure glaucoma

What kinds of treatments are available for RVO?

RVO can be treated through the injection of steroids to resolve swelling or antivascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) agents to resolve the underlying blockage, while laser treatment is used to address complications associated with RVO.

Your clinician will explain the treatment options, the best course of treatment and the risks associated with treatment.