

RETINAL VASCULAR OCCLUSIONS

Occlusions of the retinal vascular system is the second most common retinal vascular disorder after diabetic retinopathy. They occur due to a blockage of the blood vessels which serve the retina.

SYMPTOMS

Painless loss of vision

Diagnosis is generally clinical

They can be of 2 Types

Venous occlusions

Arterial occlusions

Venous Occlusions are the more common of the two and has a better prognosis. The drop in vision in this disorder is generally due to thickening of the central part of the retina called the macula which is the area for fine vision

OCT is a useful non invasive diagnostic modality for diagnosing edema or swelling due to vascular occlusions. Fluorescein Angiography is also performed to get to know about blood supply and to determine any risk of future bleeds in these eyes.

Recently intravitreal injections of anti VEGF agents and steroid injections/implants have shown good results in treating macular edema associated with venous occlusions. These may need to be repeated frequently depending on the patients response to therapy.

Arterial occlusions are less common and are often associated with sever permanent vision loss.

Systemic factors like hypertension, cardiac history, high cholesterol and Diabetes are known to be associated with vascular occlusions. Your ophthalmologist may refer you to a physician or cardiologist in such cases.