



# Optic Nerve Drusen

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This material will help you understand optic nerve drusen.

## **What are optic nerve drusen?**

Optic nerve drusen are deposits of protein-like material in the optic nerve. The optic nerve carries images from the eye to the brain.

Optic nerve drusen usually do not affect vision. Rarely, people with this condition may slowly lose their side vision. Optic nerve drusen is also known as optic disc drusen or pseudopapilledema.

## **What causes optic nerve drusen?**

The cause of optic nerve drusen is unknown. It develops slowly as material collects on the optic nerve head. The average age that it first appears is 12 years old. Optic nerve drusen are often inherited, but people without a family history can still have the condition.

## **How are optic nerve drusen diagnosed?**

Usually, your eye doctor can diagnose optic nerve drusen during a normal eye exam. Optic nerve drusen can sometimes be mistaken for a serious condition called papilledema. Because of this, more testing with an ultrasound or taking optic nerve pictures may be necessary to confirm your diagnosis.

## **How are optic nerve drusen treated?**

There are no treatments for optic nerve drusen. Even if you do not have symptoms, your eye doctor may monitor you regularly to track your vision. In rare cases, people with optic nerve drusen develop new blood vessels next to the optic nerve. This could be a serious complication if not detected early.

**For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.**



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/82>



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/drusen.cfm>

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