

Lattice Degeneration

This material will help you understand how lattice degeneration affects your eyes and how to best manage this condition.

What is lattice degeneration?

Lattice degeneration is diagnosed when patches of thinning are found in the outer areas of the retina. The retina is a layer of nerve tissue in the back of the eye that acts like the “film” of the eye. It captures light and sends the images to the brain. The thinning of the retina caused by lattice degeneration does not affect central vision. Therefore, most people with this condition do not have any symptoms. The name comes from the crisscross, or “lattice,” pattern that is seen on the retina as it thins.

What causes lattice degeneration?

We do not know the exact causes of lattice degeneration at this time. However, it is more common in people who are nearsighted and it tends to run in families. It is estimated to affect 10% of people.

How is lattice degeneration treated?

Most cases of lattice degeneration do not require any treatment. Lattice degeneration may lead to more serious eye conditions, especially retinal tears or detachments. You should see your eye doctor regularly to keep track of any changes to your condition. If you notice any sudden vision changes such as flashing lights, new floaters, or loss of peripheral (side) vision, tell your eye doctor right away. These may be signs of something more serious.

For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.



<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1223956-overview>

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