

# Retinal Telangiectasia (Type 2)

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This material will help you understand retinal telangiectasia, its causes, and how it may be treated.

## **What is retinal telangiectasia?**

Retinal telangiectasia is a disease that affects the retina. The retina is the light sensitive layer in the back of the eye. It captures the images coming through the front of the eye and then sends them to the brain. Retinal telangiectasia occurs when tiny blood vessels in the **macula** (a part of the retina) grow in an abnormal way. The vessels become wider (dilate) and may leak.

The macula is responsible for your most precise vision. It allows you to read small print and thread needles. When the vessels around the macula leak, it can lead to other eye problems such as **macular edema**. This is when the retina swells or thickens. When this happens, your vision may become blurry and you may lose central vision.

## **What causes retinal telangiectasia?**

At this time, we do not know what causes this disease. Having a family history of retinal telangiectasia may increase your risk. Other conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure may also increase the chance that you will develop retinal telangiectasia.

## **How is retinal telangiectasia treated?**

Treatment for retinal telangiectasia varies. There is currently no treatment for early stages of the disease. It is very important to have regular eye exams to make sure the disease does not get worse.

Other treatment options include laser, certain eye drops, and the use of anti-VEGF (anti-vascular endothelial growth factor) injections. These treatments help to reduce the amount of swelling in your macula.

You and your eye doctor will discuss the treatment plan that is best for you.

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



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/macular-telangiectasia/index.cfm>

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