

# VISUAL LOSS IN THE ELDERLY

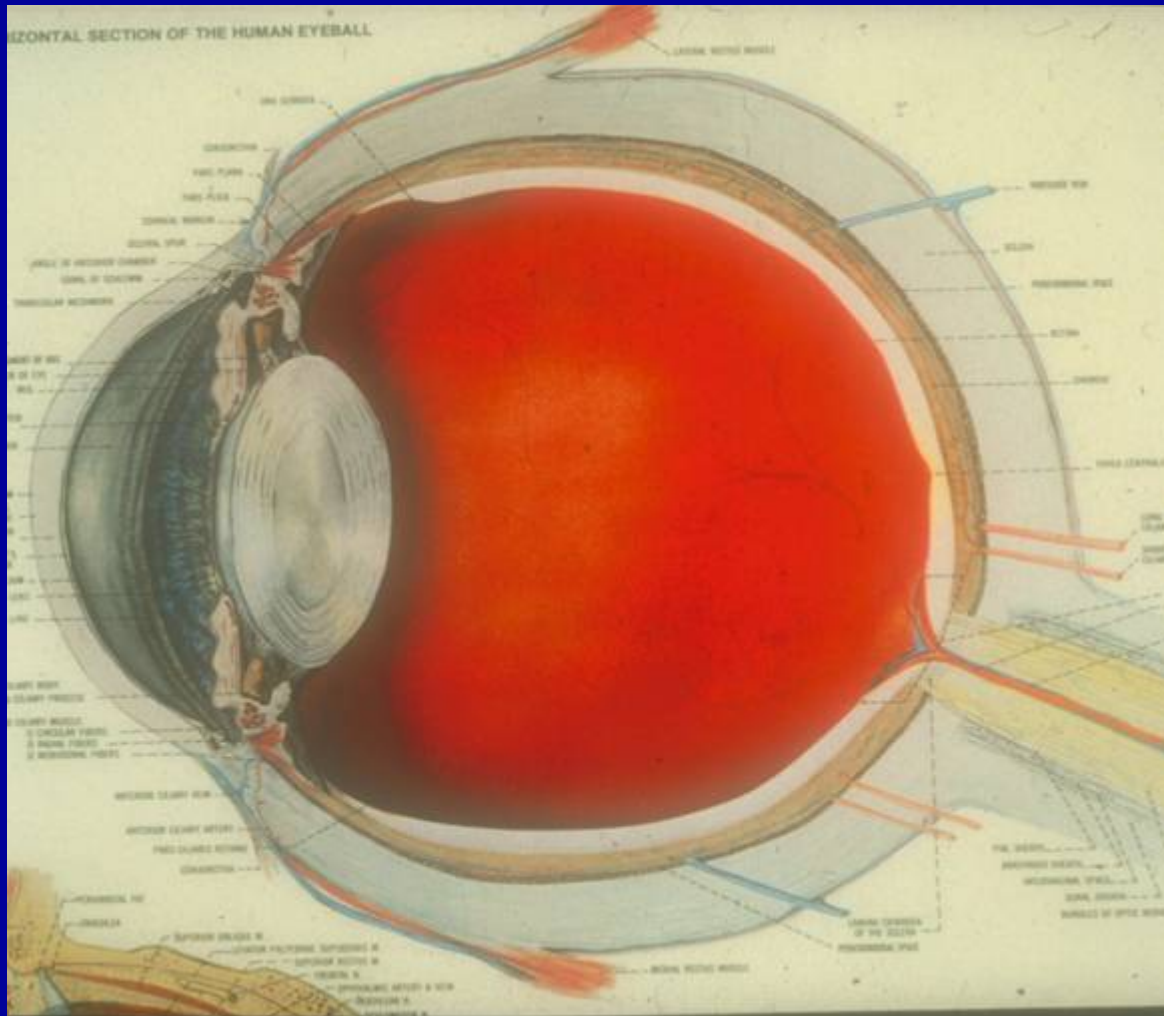
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# Aetiology

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- Sudden
  - Retinal
    - Retinal vascular occlusion
    - Wet AMD
  - Neurological
    - AION
    - Neurological visual field loss
- Gradual
  - Cataract
  - Glaucoma
  - Dry AMD

# Cataract



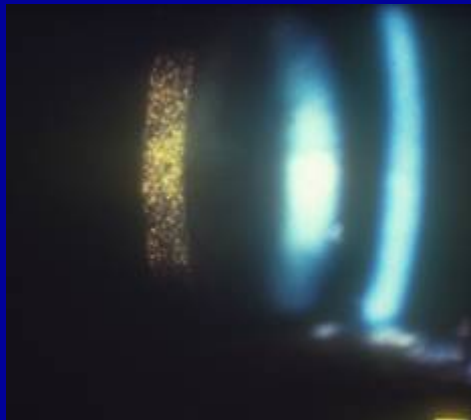
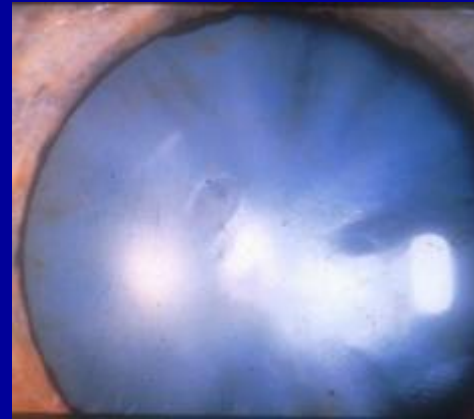
# Cataract

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- Slow, painless decrease of vision
- Glare
- Occasionally, monocular multiple images

# Types of Cataract

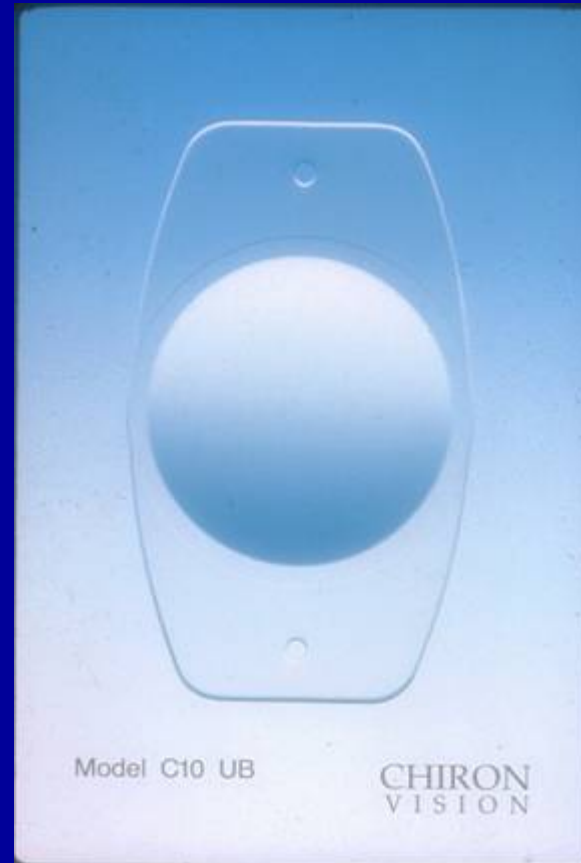
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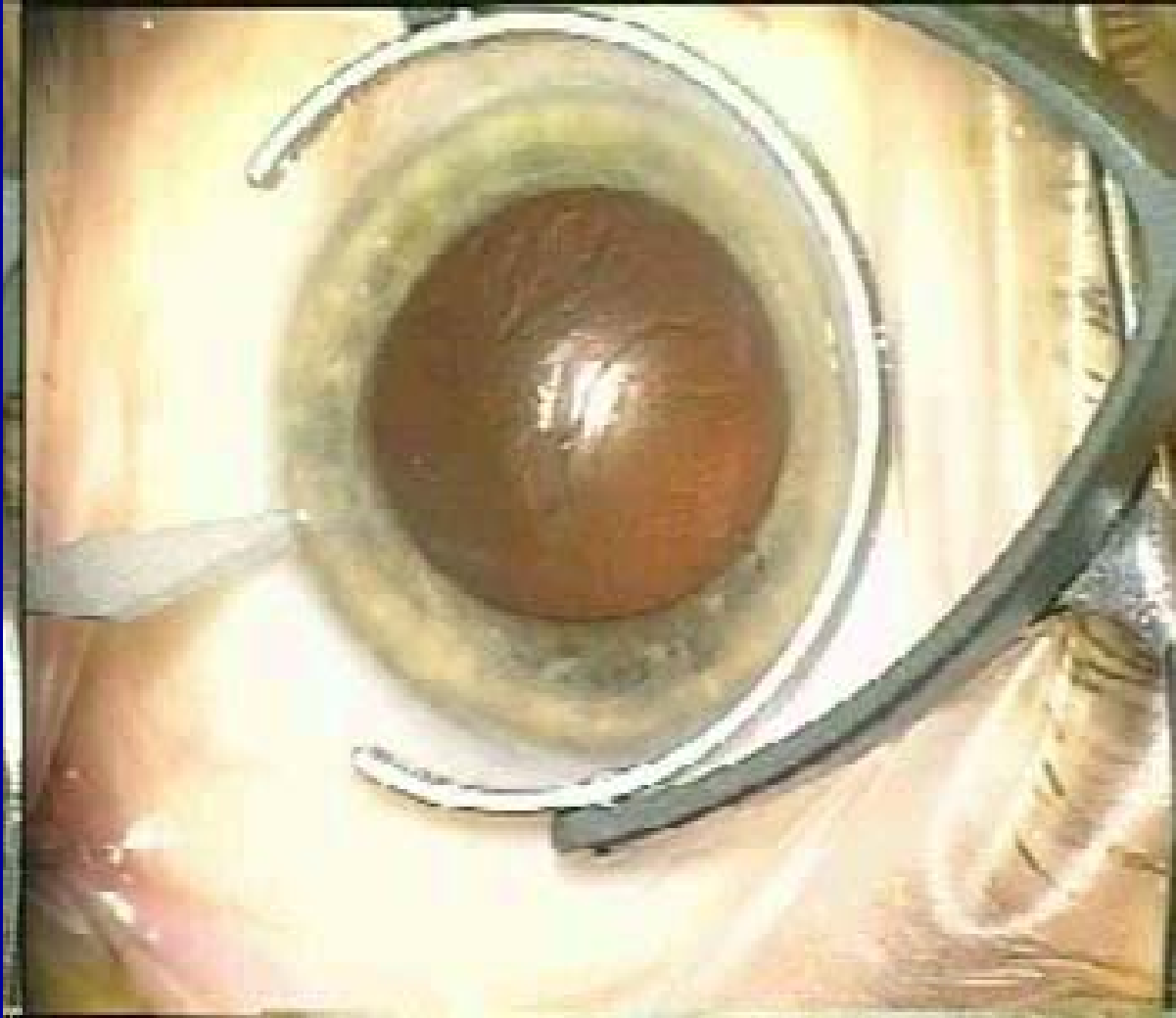


# Management

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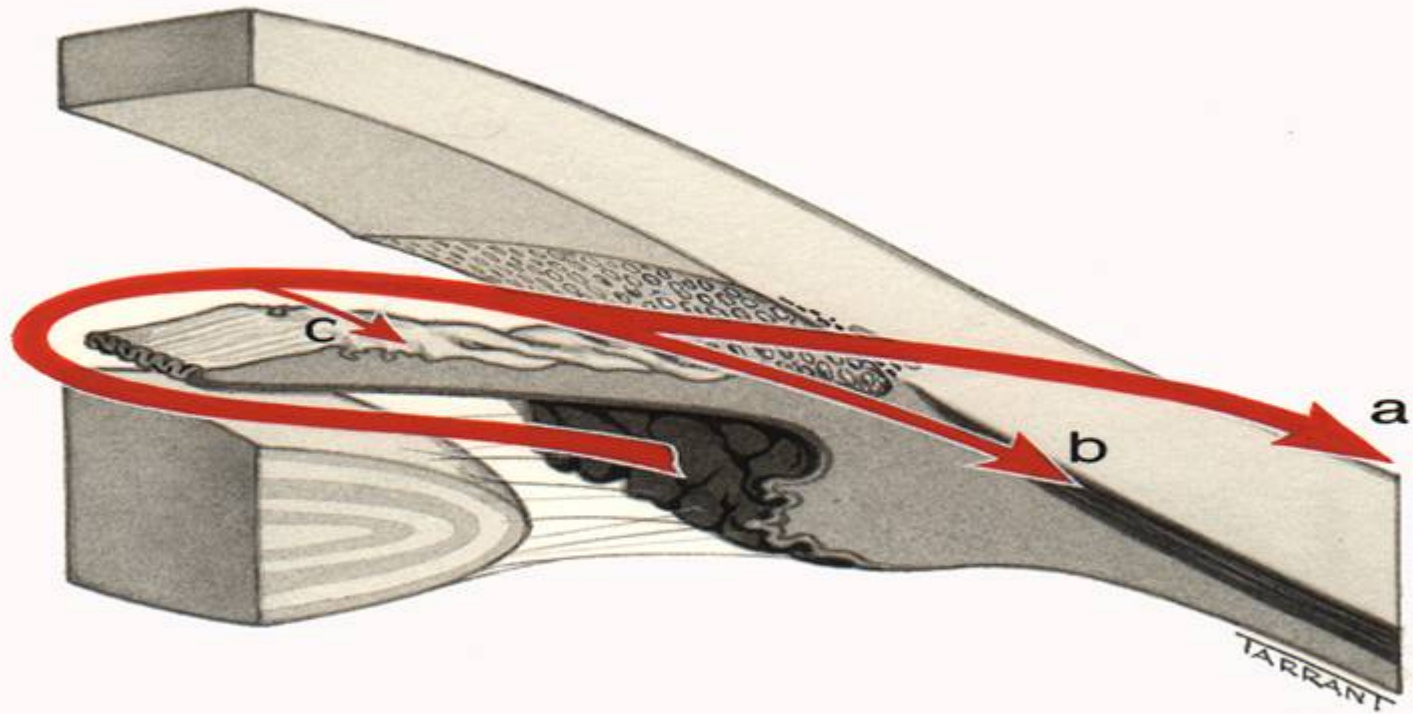
- Interfering with daily activities
- Cause of other ocular diseases
  - glaucoma
  - uveitis
- Prevents examination or treatment of pre-existing ocular condition
  - DR
  - Glaucoma





# Aqueous Outflow

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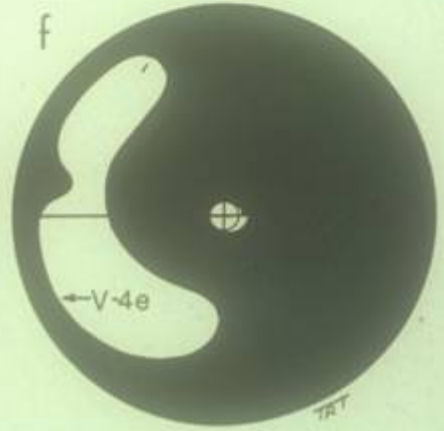
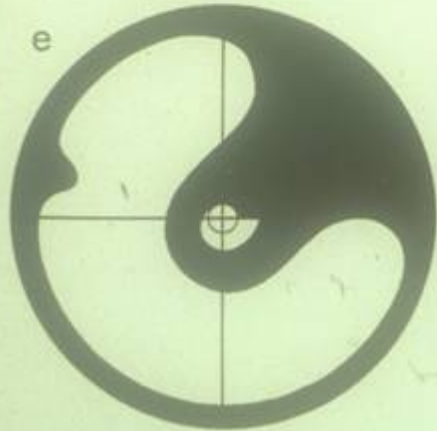
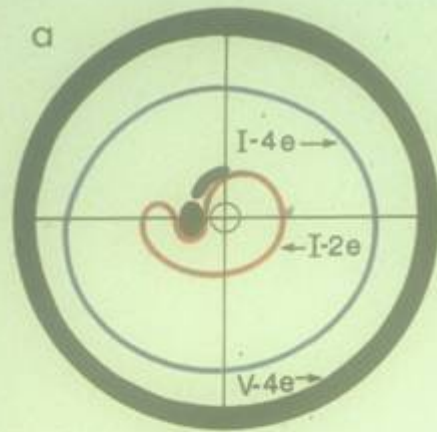
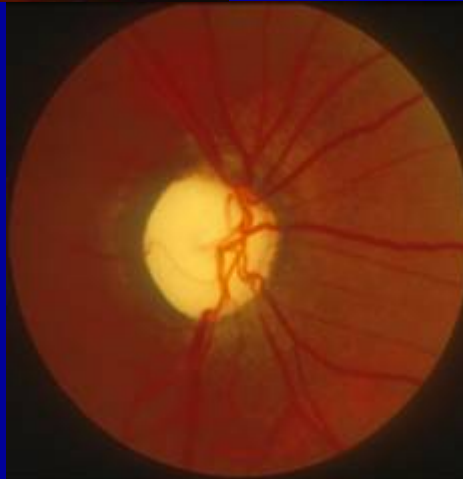
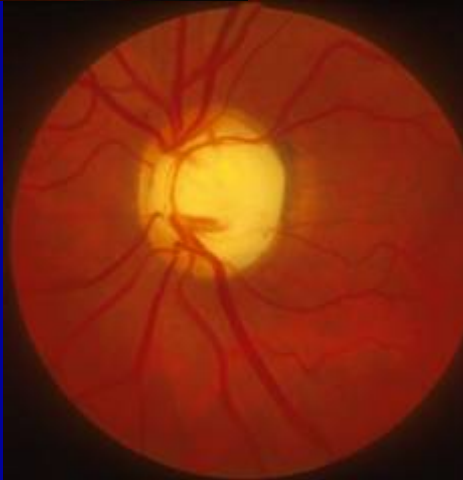




# Glaucoma

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- Primary open angle
  - Reduced outflow and poor optic nerve perfusion
- Secondary open angle
  - Ocular disease
    - Ocular inflammation
    - Trauma
    - Intraocular haemorrhage
  - Drugs
    - Steroids



# Symptoms

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- Often none until extensive loss of V F
- ‘Bumping into things’
- Gradual deterioration of near vision
- Pain very uncommon unless IOP very high

# Treatment

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## MEDICAL

- $\beta$ -Blockers(side effects!)
- PG agonist
- $\alpha_2$  adrenergic agonist
- Parasympathomimetics
- CAIs
- Osmotic agents

## SURGICAL

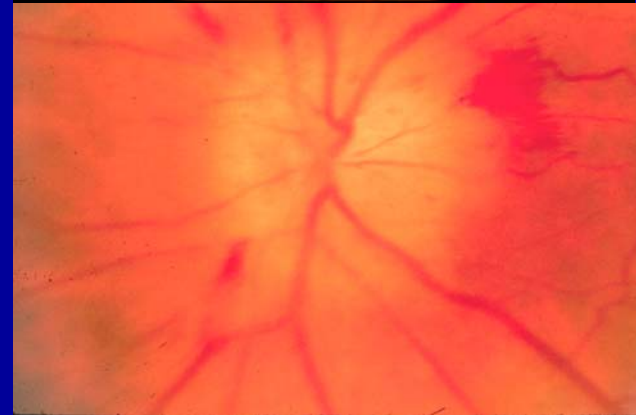
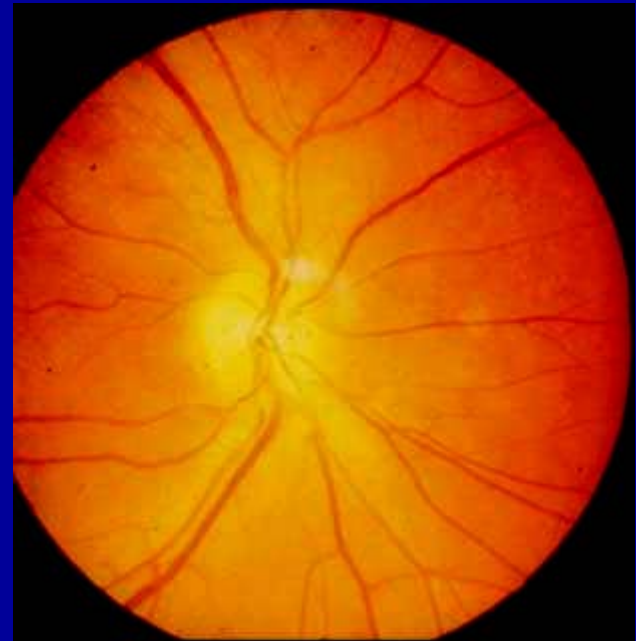
- Trabeculectomy
- Laser



# AION

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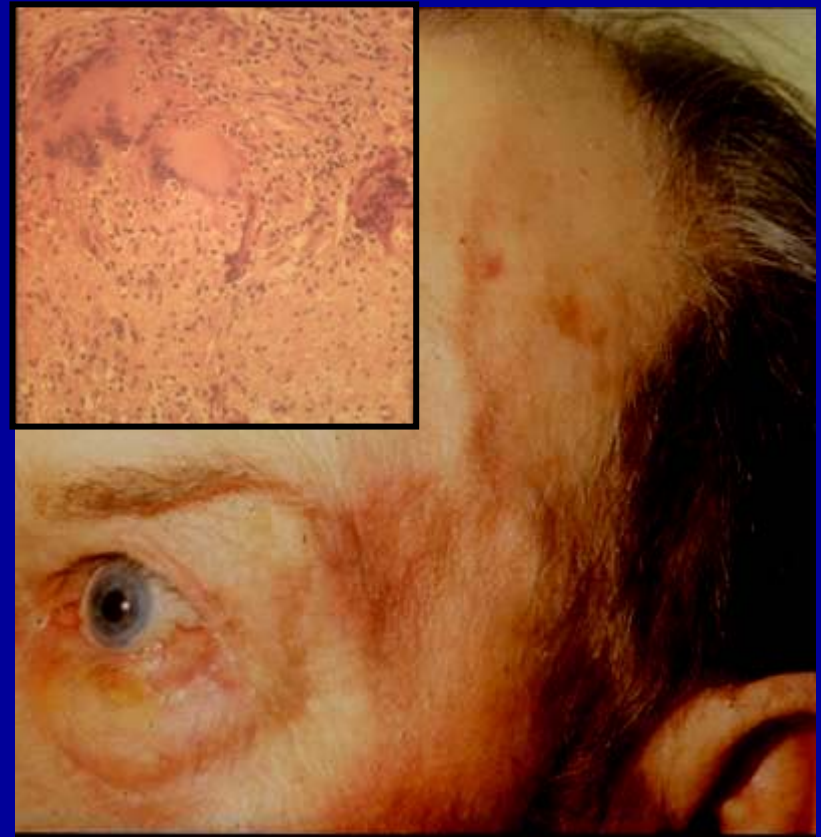
- Arteritic
  - Older patients
  - Second eye involved  
75%
  - Polymyalgia  
Rheumatica
- Non-arteritic
  - Younger
  - HT, DM



# Arteritic IAON

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- Headache, scalp tenderness
- Thickened temporal artery
- Jaw claudication
- Weight loss, anorexia, fever, night sweats, malaise, depression
- Raised ESR
- CRAO, CN palsy

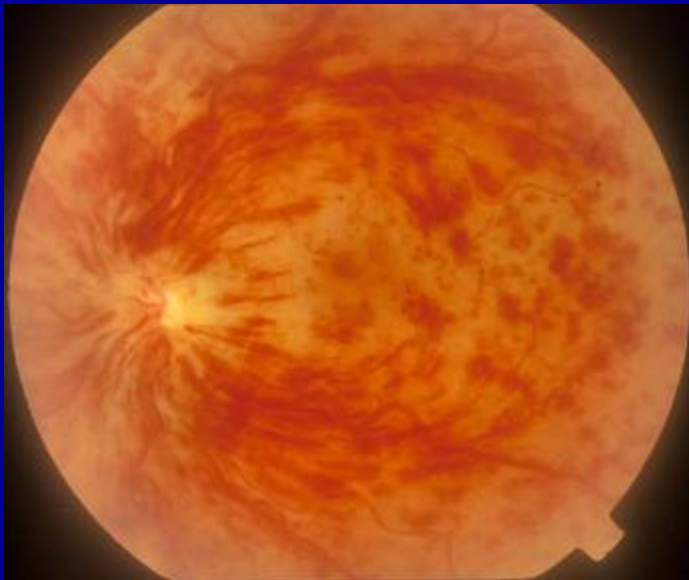
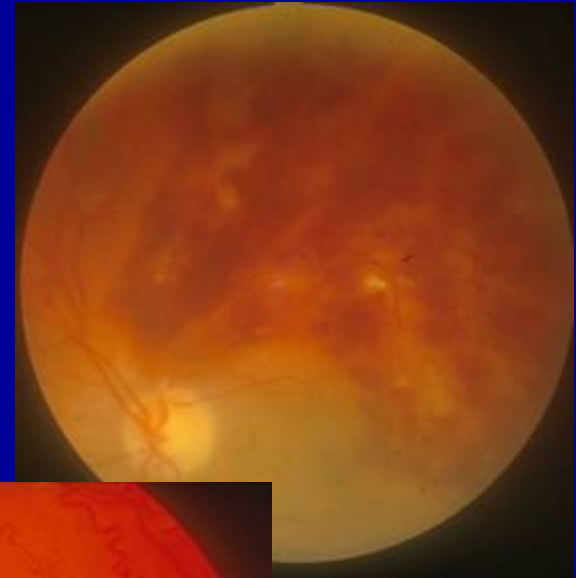




# Retinal Vein Occlusion

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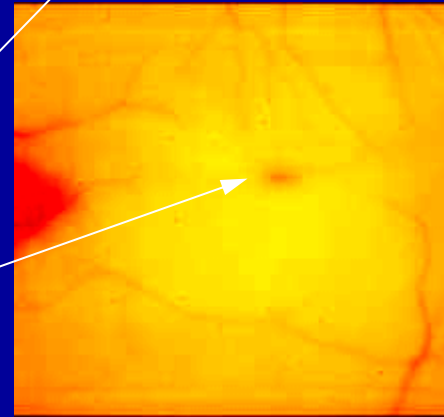
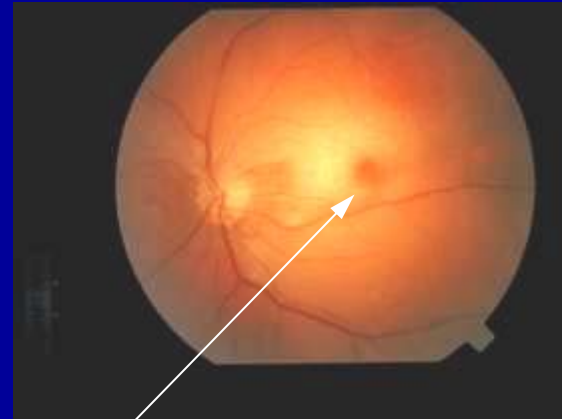
- Sudden, painless
  - VF defect
  - loss of vision



# Retinal Artery Occlusion

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- Sudden, painless
  - VF defect
  - loss of vision
- Amaurosis fugax
- CVA, TIA



Cherry spot



# Investigations for retinal vascular disease

- Visual acuity, pupil reflexes, visual field
- BP, pulse, ECG
- BSL, FBC, U/Es
- Protein electrophoresis
- Carotid doppler

# Macular Disease

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- Commonest cause of untreatable visual loss in the elderly
- Distortion
- Deterioration of central visual acuity
- Normal pupil reflexes

# Dry AMD

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Drusen

# Exudative AMD

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