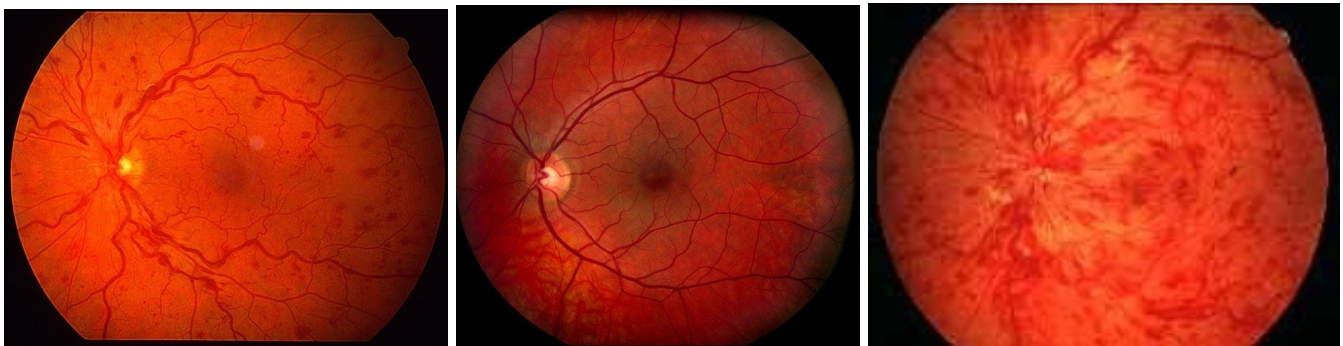


BRANCH RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION (BRVO)

CENTRAL RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION (CRVO)

Branch retinal vein occlusion is a blockage of a smaller retinal vein. Usually this results in blurry vision or a missing area of vision, but most people with BRVO tend to find their vision gradually improve over time as it naturally heals itself. Central retinal vein occlusion is a blockage to the central or main retinal vein, which is more serious than BRVO. Often this fluid collects in the area of the retina which is responsible for central vision called the macula. When it affects the macula, central vision may become blurry. BRVO and CRVO often occurs to people who are aged 50 and older and it is some of the most common retinal vascular disorders. Causes of the conditions are unknown, but it is common in people who have high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, diabetes, and glaucoma. Two types of CRVO are non-ischemic and ischemic. Non-ischemic CRVO is a less serious form and usually patients have better outcomes visually. Ischemic CRVO is a more serious form which can cause vision loss, possibility of eye loss and can develop complications.



(Left photo : Non-ischemic CRVO / Middle photo : Healthy eye / Right photo : Ischemic CRVO)



(Photo : Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion)

There are not many signs and symptoms for BRVO and CRVO, but they are painless sudden vision loss in one eye that can become worse over several hours or days more for CRVO. If this occurs, then you should see an eye professional immediately to get an evaluation on the cause of the blockage and get the correct treatment. Unfortunately, there are no cure, but treatments for CRVO consist of injectable medications and steroids to treat macular edema and laser treatments to help prevent growth of new abnormal blood vessels. For BRVO, people may not require any treatment as the eye may heal itself given time. Total loss of central vision may happen with CRVO and recovery is less likely than with a BRVO.