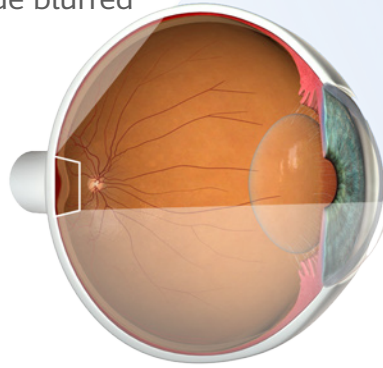


Macular Edema

Macular Edema means swelling of the macula, the central area of the retina most critical for vision. It occurs when blood vessels leak fluid into the retina. The fluid build-up distorts the macula and causes blurring or distortion of vision.

Symptoms

Symptoms of Macular Edema include blurred vision, distortion of images, missing areas, dimming or “graying-out” of vision from loss of contrast sensitivity, and sometimes changes in the way you see color. Macular edema does not cause pain.



Simulated vision with Macular Edema



Normal vision

Types

What is Diabetic Macular Edema?

Diabetic Macular Edema occurs when diabetic damage to blood vessels in the retina causes them to leak fluid into the retina, causing swelling.

What is Cystoid Macular Edema?

Cystoid Macular Edema occurs when cyst-like pockets of fluid collect in the macula and cause the macula to swell, distorting vision.

Treatment

If left untreated, swelling in the macula can cause vision problems that get worse over time or become permanent. The swelling of Cystoid Macular Edema can often be reduced or eliminated with anti-inflammatory eyedrops or intraocular injections. Sometimes oral anti-inflammatory medicines are also prescribed. The swelling of Diabetic Macular Edema is often treated with laser light treatments that can help to “dry-up” leaky blood vessels in the back of the eye.