



# DIABETIC RETINOPATHY *and* RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION

*Contributed by Samuel C. Gold, M.D.*

**T**here have been new developments in the treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy can result in macular edema or swelling. The macula is the area of the retina that is responsible for central vision. Diabetic macular edema is the number one cause of vision loss in patients with diabetic retinopathy. In the past diabetic macular edema has been treated with laser surgery. Recent studies have found that patients treated with injections of medications such as Lucentis or Avastin with prompt or deferred laser have superior visual outcomes compared to those individuals treated with laser surgery alone. This represents a major paradigm shift in the treatment of diabetic macular edema and results in better visual outcomes for our patients with this problem.

Retinal vein occlusion is another common cause of blood vessel related vision loss. If the largest vein leaving the eye is

affected, the condition is known as central retinal vein occlusion, or CRVO; otherwise it is called a branch retinal vein occlusion, or BRVO. Retinal vein occlusions are also commonly associated with macular edema. Injections of medications such as Lucentis or Avastin have resulted in improved vision and reduction of macular edema in retinal vein occlusion patients. These procedures are available locally in Manchester.



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