

Pan Retinal Photocoagulation (PRP)

Your condition

The retina is a layer at the back of the eye that is responsible for vision. With diabetic retinopathy your retina may go through a series of changes. These may include leakage or closure of capillaries (tiny blood vessels) or growth of weak, new capillaries. These changes may progress in severity leading to reduced vision.

Diabetic retinopathy is best managed with good blood pressure and blood glucose control.



Leaking blood vessels



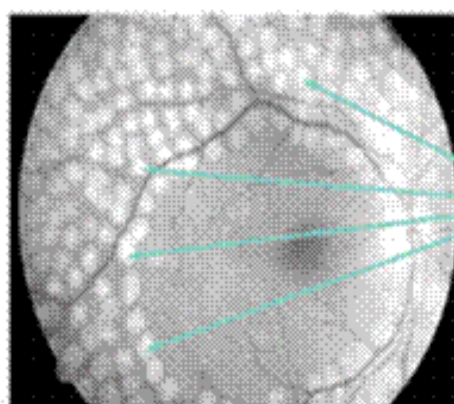
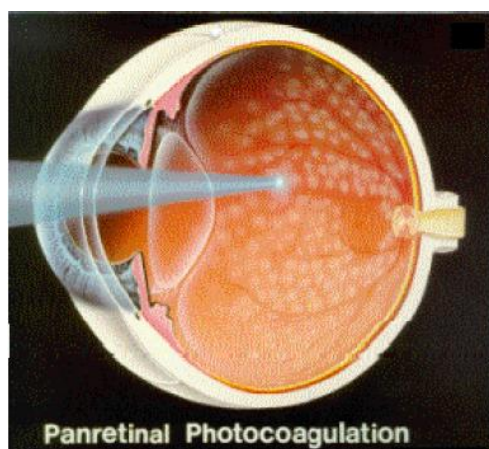
Closed blood vessels decrease oxygen



Weak new blood vessels

What does the laser do and how does it work?

This type of laser treatment, also known as scatter laser, is performed using a thermal laser. Scatter laser helps to control the growth of abnormal blood vessels on the retina. Several sessions will be required depending upon the severity of your retinopathy.



Areas treated with laser

What to expect

- You will be in the hospital for at least 2 hours.
- You will be given drops to dilate your pupil (make it large) which last for several hours, so you will be unable to drive home.
- Local anaesthetic drops will also be put in your eye before the procedure.
- Treatment is delivered through a lens which rests against your eye.
- Please take all of your usual medications prior to your appointment, unless otherwise advised by your doctor.
- If you have diabetes please ensure you have your normal meals and bring snacks for while you wait.
- Side effects may include pain and sensitivity to light (photophobia) which may require some pain relief. Wearing sunglasses (with your prescription, if required) can make the trip home more comfortable.
- Please arrange for someone to pick you up and drive/take you home.

More information

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www.eyeandear.org.au

Diabetes Australia - Victoria
Ph: 03 9667 1777
www.diabetesaustralia.com.au

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