

Your Eye Care is Our Number One Concern

At TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, we are committed to providing premier eye care service. Our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment allows early diagnosis of common eye problems such as cataract, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, often before symptoms occur. Our board-certified ophthalmologists and optometrists use the newest technologies and treatments available in the United States today, allowing us to treat eye ailments safely and effectively.

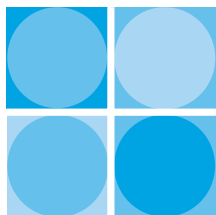
Offering State-of-the-Art Eye Care to Our Patients

Vision is one of the most important of the five senses, and healthy eyes are necessary for good vision. Eye problems can occur at any age, but the chance for developing them increases as we age. Vision problems can affect a person's overall health, causing disability, stress, and a decreased quality of life.

Early detection of eye problems is vital for maintaining healthy eyes. Diagnosing an eye disease in its early stages minimizes its damage and greatly affects the success of treatment. Because many eye ailments have no symptoms until their advanced stages, regular and thorough eye exams with our Affiliate Network of optometrists are necessary throughout your lifetime to help maintain healthy eyes.

We Make it Easy for You To Maintain Healthy Eyes

With several vision centers located throughout Michigan and Ohio, our patients enjoy easy access to quality eye care whenever and wherever they need it. Because TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers have doctors on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our patients have immediate access to treatment for unforeseen eye injuries and accidents.



877.TLC.TIME (877.852.8463)
www.tlceyecare.com

Locations Include:

Adrian, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bellevue, Big Rapids, Bryan, Chelsea, Farmington Hills, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Sandusky, Toledo



TLC
EYECARE & LASER CENTERS

Diabetic Retinopathy



Take a Closer Look®

877.852.8463

Diabetic Retinopathy

What is Diabetic Retinopathy?

Diabetic retinopathy is one of the leading causes of blindness among Americans. In diabetes, the blood sugar can get too high which can damage the blood vessels in your retina. This damage is known as diabetic retinopathy.

The retina is a very thin layer of tissue covering the back inner wall of the eye. The retina converts light images into nerve impulses, which are sent along the optic nerve to be transmitted back to the brain to interpret. The macula is the central portion of the retina responsible for clear, detailed vision which is needed for activities such as reading and driving.

The retina plays a very important role in eyesight. A damaged retina can leak fluid and will interfere with your sight, causing blurred vision and making it difficult to do close work, such as reading.

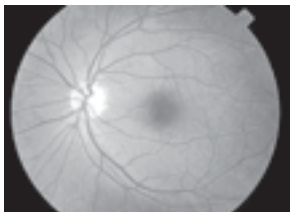
Who gets diabetic retinopathy?

Anyone who has diabetes. The longer you have diabetes, the more likely you'll get it. Nearly half of all people with diabetes will develop some degree of the disease.

How can it be prevented?

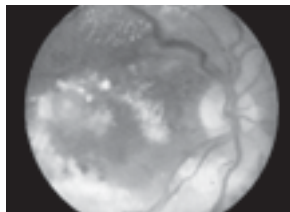
Retinopathy can possibly be prevented by having a dilated eye exam at least once a year, even if you have good vision. More frequent exams may be needed if you have eye disease. Tight control of blood glucose and blood pressure also has a tremendous impact on preventing this disease.

Normal Blood Vessels



Damaged Blood Vessels

Associated with Diabetic Retinopathy



What are the symptoms of diabetic retinopathy?

There are no signs in the early stages of diabetic retinopathy. An annual eye exam is the best way to catch it in its early stages. A doctor can detect the blood vessel changes in the eye that signal the presence of retinopathy.

How is it detected?

Retinopathy is detected during an exam of the back of the eye. When you visit your doctor you may need to have a special test of your retina, which is called fluorescein angiography. The test is performed by injecting dye into a vein in the patient's arm and photographing the circulation of the dye through the retinal blood vessels. These photographs may reveal leakage within the retina or poor retinal circulation. The good news about early diabetic retinopathy is that treatment may not be necessary. Good control of your diabetes with intensive management and control of your blood sugar will delay, and possibly prevent, both the development and progression of diabetic retinopathy.

What is the treatment for diabetic retinopathy?

Laser treatment is the most common treatment for diabetic retinopathy. In this kind of surgery, spots of the laser are directed at the retina to seal leaking blood vessels. The laser can also be scattered to stop new blood vessels from growing and bleeding. Laser surgery may require more than one treatment to be effective. Laser is very effective at maintaining vision but it cannot restore vision that has already been lost. These treatments are usually painless and can be performed in the doctor's office. If you have more advanced diabetic retinopathy new blood vessels can grow resulting in a vitreous hemorrhage inside the eye which causes a marked decrease in vision. Sometimes the hemorrhage can result in the formation of scar tissue which can cause the retina to contract. This is a very serious ocular condition, since it may cause permanent loss of vision. In this case, your ophthalmologist may recommend vitrectomy. In vitrectomy, the surgeon removes the blood filled vitreous or re-attaches the retina and replaces it with a clear fluid. This allows light to pass through the clear fluid to the retina.

