

Diabetes and the eye

Whanganui Midweek · 3 Nov 2021 · 12 · What is diabetes?

Broadly speaking there are two forms of Diabetes. In Type I, the body stops making insulin. In type II, the cells of the body don't respond to insulin in the way they should.



Insulin helps the body make use of glucose to help control blood sugar levels. If there is too much glucose in the blood for an extended period of time, the body can become damaged in a number of ways. One such way, is damage to the small blood vessels in the eye.

What is diabetic eye disease?

There are several problems that can result from diabetes. These can include diabetic retinopathy (damage to the light sensitive layer of the eye), and diabetic macular oedema (swelling of the central vision). Cataract and glaucoma may also be associated with diabetes.

Diabetic retinopathy

In early stages, patients with diabetic retinopathy may not have symptoms. This is why if you have diabetes, it is very important you have regular eye examinations.

Wanganui Eyecare perform confocal scanning at every comprehensive eye examination. This scanner allows us to assess the retina in very high resolution so we can detect changes as early as possible.

If you have diabetes, or would like to know more, please do phone us to schedule a comprehensive eye examination on 06 345 4665. Alternatively visit our website wanganuieyecare.co.nz or email reception@wanganuieyecare.co.nz