

Resource 10-1: Diabetic Retinopathy, Including Visual Images, Assessment, and Intervention

Diabetic Retinopathy		
Nonproliferative, also known as background retinopathy	Proliferative retinopathy	
Microaneurysms, with or without bleeding Macular edema possible	To support retinal nourishment, new fragile vessels form	

Diabetic Retinopathy: Clinical Presentation and Intervention		
Condition	Patient presentation	Intervention
DM retinopathy without fluid leak or bleed	Usually without vision complaint, detected on dilated eye exam	Prevent disease progression with tight control of underlying condition (DM, dyslipidemia, HTN)
DM retinopathy with fluid leak or bleed, macular edema	New-onset vision blurring or other visual change, new "floaters," "holes" or "swiss cheese" vision	Prevent disease progression with tight control of underlying condition (DM, dyslipidemia, HTN) Photocoagulation Vitrectomy if disease progression continues in spite of photocoagulation
Abbreviations: DM, diabetes mellitus; HTN, hypertension		

Source: National Eye Institute. Facts about Diabetic Retinopathy, available at https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/diabetic-retinopathy

