

Optic atrophy

What is optic atrophy?

Optic atrophy is the result of degeneration or damage to the optic nerve or retina. The optic nerve transports visual information from the eye to an area of the brain where it is processed.

Who is at risk?

It may be inherited or result from brain injury or conditions such as brain trauma, inflammation, degenerative disorders, haemorrhage or tumour. It can be progressive or static depending on the cause of the damage.

How is optic atrophy detected?

When making a diagnosis, an eye health professional will look for a pale optic disc which is a clinical sign of optic atrophy. The optic disc is the portion of the optic nerve visible when looking into the eye.

Can optic atrophy be treated?

Vision loss will vary depending on the severity of the atrophy. Due to the nerve damage, optic atrophy is not reversible and therefore cannot be treated.

How can Vision Australia help?

Vision Australia provides support and services to people of all ages and stages of life who are blind or have vision loss.

We work with people to achieve what's important to them such as studying, finding or retaining employment, leading an active social life or continuing to do the things they love.

With the support of our professional teams, people who are blind or have low vision can develop their skills and make use of technology and equipment that will enable them to live independently.

Contact Vision Australia

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