

## DIABETES

As you probably know, diabetes affects many parts of the human body. As a result of diabetes, the eye often has serious problems. The blood vessels inside the eye are often damaged by the high blood sugar level found in diabetes. This damage results in bleeding and fluid discharge, which injures the retina, the eye tissue used for vision. This may result in very poor vision.

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Often, a test called a fluorescein angiography is done to allow the doctor to see if there has been damage to the eye due to diabetes. During this test, a dye is injected into a small blood vessel, usually in your hand or arm, and pictures are taken of the inside lining of the eye (the retina). The doctor will evaluate these pictures so he can plan your treatment.

A laser surgical procedure is most often used to treat the harmful effects of diabetes on the retina. The laser treatment is done in our office with little or no pain for the patient. The patient will have a return visit, approximately two months after the laser treatment, so the doctor can judge the success of the treatment.

If you have pain after the laser surgery you may take ibuprofen (Advil, Nuprin), or Tylenol, as you would for a headache.

Unfortunately, some patients continue to have damage to the eyes due to diabetes. Therefore, it is very important that diabetic patients are examined often for the harmful changes that may occur.

Should you have any questions concerning your care please call Eye Center of Texas at 713-797-1010.

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