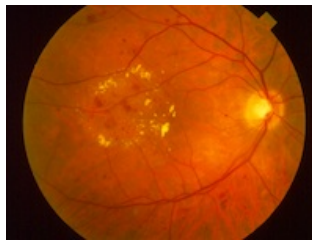


Background Diabetic Retinopathy

High sugar levels cause the retina's blood vessels to develop weak spots which may pooh out like bubbles along the blood vessels. They are called microaneurysms. If microaneurysms rupture blood leaks into the retina to form small dot hemorrhages. The retina will clear the blood away, but some debris named hard exudates may be left behind. These changes—microaneurysms, dot hemorrhages, and hard exudates—are called background diabetic eye disease. People with more than ten years of diabetes experience background diabetic. Background diabetic retinopathy causes significant vision loss when the swelling occurs in the center of the retina which is called macula. Diabetic macular swelling is a common cause of vision loss among diabetic patients.

Background diabetic retinopathy is a sign that retina's blood vessels are sick. If enough of the blood vessels rupture, the retina will try to grow new blood vessels to replace the sick ones. This blood vessels usually grow in the wrong places, are fragile, and break easily, and may cause blood to fill the eye.



Background Diabetic Retinopathy