

Diabetic Retinopathy

- Asymptomatic in the early stages when treatment is most effective
- More common and more severe with increasing duration of diabetes and/or poor Diabetic control
- Smoking, renal disease ,uncontrolled hypertension and raised blood sugars are the biggest risk factors
- Screening for diabetic eye disease has been shown to prevent loss of sight
- Laser therapy will reduce the risk of visual loss in more than 70% of patients with proliferative retinopathy
- Anti-VEGF or laser therapy will salvage vision in 50-60% of patients with maculopathy.

Suggested Management in Primary Care

- Ensure good diabetic control, give lifestyle advice (i.e. smoking) and control hypertension
- All patients age 12 and over should be referred for diabetic Eye Screening on diagnosis and will be recalled annually thereafter by the Diabetic Eye Screening Service).

Barnsley and Rotherham Diabetic Eye Screening Service

The Barnsley and Rotherham Diabetic Eye Screening Service is based in the Diabetes Centre at Barnsley Hospital. The clinics are run between 08:30 and 17.00, Monday to Friday, and the phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 08:30 to 17:00 and Friday 08:30 to 12:30.. In addition, sessions take place at locations throughout the community on an ad hoc basis when locations are available.

The service also offers slit lamp bio microscopy clinics for patients who's retinal images are unclear and surveillance clinics For patients who have retinopathy who require to be monitored more than once a year who do not require a referral to Ophthalmology

The Clinical Lead for Diabetic Eye Screening Service is, Dr Vani Shankaran Diabetes and Endocrine Consultant based at Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust.

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