



TASMANIAN EYE CLINICS

EYE DOCTORS SPECIALISING AND CARING FOR YOUR EYES



eye TALK

with Dr Gordon Wise

Diabetes

Why is it important to examine the eye in patients with diabetes? The eye is a very important part of the continuing care of patients with diabetes. Cataract occurs frequently amongst diabetic patients and examination of the retina gives essential information about the status of the patient's vision.

What happens to the retina of diabetic patients? The small vessels in the retina in Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes may leak blood products, especially in Type 2. This causes swelling in the retina and can lead to significant visual problems.

Can the eye specialist see this in the retina? Yes. After dilation of the pupil, careful retinal examination will show any abnormalities in blood vessels in the retina, which can then be graded and a report sent to the patient's GP.

I have heard about laser being used to treat diabetic changes in the eye. Is this a common treatment? No. Laser is only used in treating diabetic retinal changes when the condition is advanced. The best defence against this occurring is to have a regular retinal examination by your eye specialist.

How often should examination be conducted? Every two years if no changes are present, and at least annually if changes are present.

For more information refer to our website
www.taseye.com.au

Bellerive Suite 5, Bellerive Quay. 6211 4788

Glenorchy 3/370 Main Rd. 6230 7444

Kingston Shop 77, Channel Crt. 6211 8333

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