

Diabetic Retinopathy:

Nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR) is the most common type of diabetic retinopathy. It can be described as mild, moderate or severe. When you have NPDR, the walls of the blood vessels in your retina are damaged. Small bulges extend from the vessel walls, sometimes leaking or oozing fluid and blood into the retina. These bulges are called microaneurysms. As the condition progresses, the smaller vessels may close entirely and the larger retinal veins may begin to swell.

PDR (proliferative diabetic retinopathy) is an advanced disease state in which new abnormal blood vessels begin to grow along the retina. The new blood vessels are weak and increase a patient's risk of developing bleeding in the eye (vitreous hemorrhage). The usual treatment for patient's who have developed PDR is pan retinal photocoagulation. This is a laser, which is applied to the periphery of the retina in an effort to reduce the risk of bleeding.