

Quick Summary

The good news is your eye will probably not get any worse than it is now. The bad news is that this is a stroke-like condition, so we need to make sure that your regular doctor knows about it so we can take steps to prevent any big stroke in the future.

Branch Retinal Artery Occlusion

During your exam, Dr. Shalwala saw a blockage in one of the little arteries in your retina. There's nothing that can be done about the blockage of that artery, but we need to worry about where that blockage came from.

The most common sources of these types of blockages are the arteries in your neck and your heart. These same sources can send blockages to other arteries in your body. If they can send a blockage to your eye, they can also send a blockage to your brain. A blockage of an artery leading to your brain is a stroke. That is why we often call this blockage of a retinal artery a "stroke equivalent."

We need to let your regular doctor know about this so your risk of stroke may be minimized. They might put you on some blood thinners (may be similar to or including aspirin). They may also run some tests to try to determine where the blockage came from (such as your neck arteries or your heart as discussed above).

Most of the time, this is as bad as your eye will get. If you are having trouble with your vision now, that might get better. It is very rare for things to get worse than what they are now, but we will monitor you to make sure that that does not happen.

The most important thing you need to do is follow up with your regular doctor.



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