Vision Australia

Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.

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Retinitis pigmentosa

What is retinitis pigmentosa?

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is a genetic eye condition that causes cells in the light-sensitive retina, located at the back of the eye, to degenerate slowly and progressively. The condition can vary greatly. While many people with RP retain limited vision throughout their lives, others will lose their sight completely.

These images give an impression of what someone with Retinitis Pigmentosa may see compared to someone with normal vision.

What are the symptoms?

Generally, symptoms develop between the ages of 10 and 30 years. Some of the first symptoms may include the following:

- Difficulty seeing at night (night-blindness) or in dimly lit areas
- A narrowing field of vision
- Light and glare sensitivity

Who is at risk?

RP is an hereditary disease that generally occurs in people that have a family history of the condition.

Can it be treated?

There is currently no standard treatment or therapy for RP. However, scientists have isolated several genes responsible for the disease and research is being done on stem cell and gene therapy.

About Vision Australia

Vision Australia provides support and services to people of all ages who are blind or have vision loss which cannot be corrected by glasses or cured. We provide everything from magnifiers and audio books to in-home orientation services, seeing eye dogs and more.

Contact Vision Australia

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