

Retinitis Pigmentosa

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is a disease that results in dystrophic tissue architecture of the retina and/or retinal pigment epithelium. Retinal degeneration occurs in a hereditary fashion. Clinical features include night blindness, defects in color and contrast vision, and tunnel vision (peripheral visual field loss). RP is associated with abetalipoproteinemia, Kearns-Sayre syndrome, and Refsum disease. On funduscopy, RP classically looks like bone spicule-shaped retinal deposits. Ultimately, this disease leads to permanent blindness.



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Characteristics

Hereditary Retinal Degeneration

[Hair-Red-Kid with Red-Tins-Damaged](#)

RP is a hereditary disease that causes retinal degeneration. Several genes may cause RP, but mutations in the rhodopsin gene that code for an important G-protein coupled receptor in photoreceptor cells is implicated in the majority.

Clinical Features

Night Blindness

[Nightgown and Blinds-over-eyes](#)

Night blindness, or nyctalopia, is due to the degeneration of rods. It can be assessed by measuring the time delay in dark adaptation or slow waves on electroretinogram.

Contrast and Color Defects

[Contrasting-Convict and Colors-Broken](#)

As the degeneration of rods proceeds, contrast sensitivity decreases. Finer details like shadows and depth become more difficult to perceive. Colors also start appearing less distinct.

Tunnel Vision

[Tunnel View](#)

In late or advanced stages, peripheral retinal degeneration can result in peripheral visual field loss, or tunnel vision.

Associations

Abetalipoproteinemia

[A-beta-fish-lips-protein](#)

Abetalipoproteinemia is a malabsorption disease that results from mutations in the microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTTP) gene. It causes deficiencies of apolipoproteins B-48 and B-100.

Kearns-Sayre Syndrome

[Corn Syrup](#)

Kearns-Sayre syndrome is classified as an inborn error of metabolism disease. It is a mitochondrial myopathy characterized by ophthalmoplegia, retinitis pigmentosa, and cardiac defects.

Refsum Disease

[Referee](#)

Refsum disease is a hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy. It is due to an accumulation of phytanic acid and can cause retinitis pigmentosa.

Diagnosis

Bone Spicule-shaped Retinal Deposits

[Bone Towers with Black-smoke and Spiculated-moon](#)

On fundoscopy, several bone spicule-shaped retinal deposits may be seen. They progress from the periphery to the macula.

Considerations

Permanent Blindness

[Permed-Hair with Blinds-Over-Eyes](#)

Ultimately, this disease leads to permanent blindness as there is no cure.