

RETINOBLASTOMA

**MY EYESIGHT, MY FUTURE. HELP MY PARENT SAVE ME
FROM RETINOBLASTOMA EARLY**

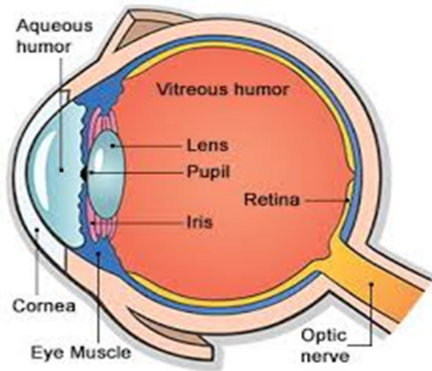


In Kenya, retinoblastoma is among the top childhood cancers diagnosed in children less than 5 years . It is one of the major cause of blindness among children in Kenya.

What is the Retina?

- The retina is a specialized light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye that detects light and color

Parts of an eye



Source : <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/parts-of-the-human-eye.html>

RETINOBLASTOMA: QUICK FACTS



Source:

Community Eye Health Journal

- Retinoblastoma is a **rare type of eye cancer** that develops in the retina.

- When one is diagnosed with retinoblastoma, the cells of the retina grow rapidly and out of control
- It usually develops in **early childhood**, among children **less than 5** years of age.
- Can occur in **one** or **both eyes** or sometimes the **area around the eye**.
- It rarely spreads to the other body parts.
- **1** out of **3** children with retinoblastoma develop cancer in both eyes

How does Retinoblastoma develop?

- The eyes develop very early as babies grow in the womb.
- Cells of the eye (retinoblasts) divide into new cells, fill the retina and mature into retinal cells.
- Retinoblastoma occurs when the cells of the eye continue to divide and grow out of control because of a change in a gene called the ***retinoblastoma (RB1) gene***.
- The normal RB1 gene helps keep cells from growing out of control, however, the change in the gene stops it from working like it should.
- Retinoblastoma tends to run in families. Children with a family history of retinoblastoma have a higher risk of developing it.

What signs and symptoms will inform you that your child has Retinoblastoma?

a) A visible whiteness in the pupil called "cat's eye reflex" or leukocoria



b) Crossed eyes or eyes that do not point in the same direction (strabismus)

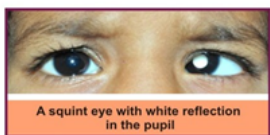


c) Persistent eye pain, redness, or irritation; and blindness or poor vision in the affected eye(s)



PARENTS WATCH OUT for the signs and symptoms below. If OBSERVE them in your child's eye, it is important to see a REPUTABLE doctor IMMEDIATELY

Signs to look out for



Source: Sajeew cankidsRB fund



ma diagnosed?

s and symptoms of retinoblastoma of cancer.

However, the diagnosis can be confirmed using the following imaging modalities: Ultrasonography, CT scan or MRI

If my Child is diagnosed with Retinoblastoma, Can it be treated?

- **YES.**When the tumour is **DETECTED** at an **EARLY STAGE** then it **IS TREATABLE**.



BEFORE

DURING TREATMENT

AFTER

Source: Vidatrumpelman

- For children who present with late stage tumours, **PALLIATIVE CARE** is often recommended.

What are the treatment options for Retinoblastoma?

Smaller Tumors detected early can be treated by:

a) laser treatment to the eye (photocoagulation)



Laser treatment

b) freezing the tumour (cryotherapy)

c) applying heat to the tumour (thermotherapy)

Larger tumors can be treated using one or a combination of the following:

- **Radioactive plaque** – A small radioactive disc is stitched over the cancerous cells and left in place for a few days to destroy the tumor, before the disc is removed.
- **Chemotherapy:** Use of chemicals to destroy the cancer cells in the eye.
- **Surgery to remove the eye-** An artificial eye will be fitted.

Tips for handling Children with retinoblastoma

References