Retinoblastoma

What is retinoblastoma?

Retinoblastoma is a type of cancer that forms in the retina (the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye).

Who is at risk for retinoblastoma?

The disease usually occurs in children younger than 5 years and may be in one eye or in both eyes. In some cases the disease is inherited from a parent.

What are symptoms of retinoblastoma?

The most common sign is a change in the color of the pupil, which can appear white in reflected light. This phenomenon is referred to as a *cat's eye reflex*. Sometimes the affected eye will cross or turn outward. Retinoblastoma can be hereditary and is more likely to develop in children with a family history of the disease.

How is retinoblastoma treated?

Retinoblastoma is a serious, life-threatening disease. However, with early diagnosis and timely treatment, in most cases, a child's eyesight and life can be saved. More than 90% of children survive and many eyes are saved with a combination of medications, radiation therapy, and heat, freezing, or laser treatments. In severe cases, the affected eye is removed.

Information provided by:
The National Eye Institue (NEI)
www.nei.nih.gov