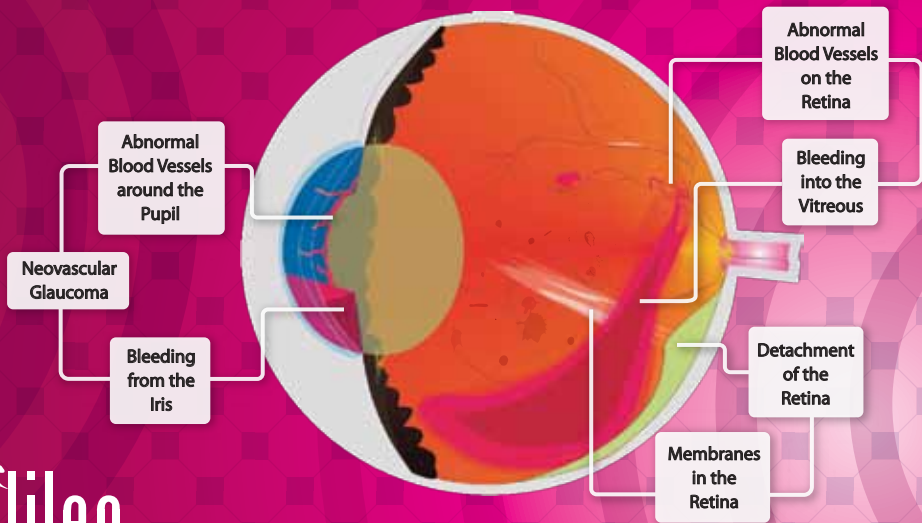
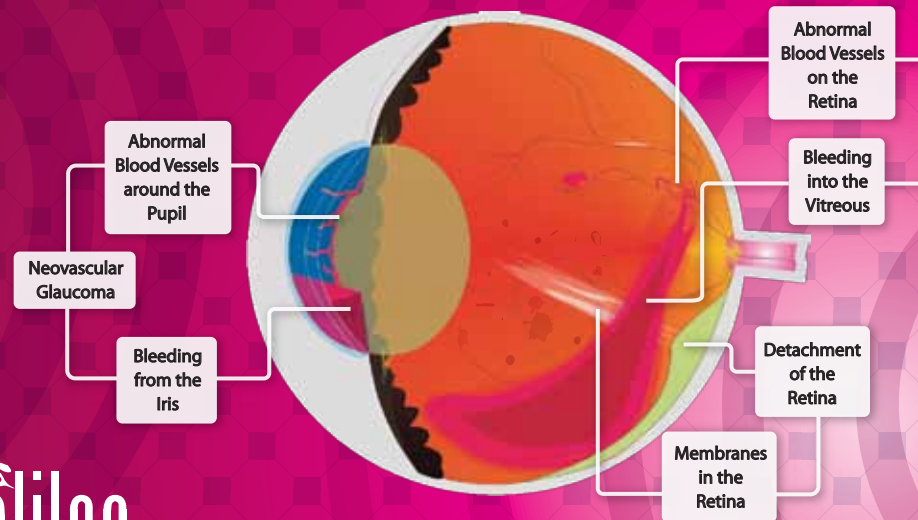


Diabetes affects the eye in many ways. The most serious and blinding complication is the damage to the Retina, a progressive condition marked by collapse of the capillaries, formation of small aneurysms, dilation of the veins, and, damage of the blood vessel walls with leaking and bleeding into the retina. As a result of the abnormal circulation and insufficient supply of oxygen to the retina, abnormal tufts of fine new vessels appear. These vessels tend to bleed and leak. Membranes form around the vessels. Retinal swelling, bleeding and membranes obscure vision. Later bleeding becomes more extensive, the membranes become scars, pulling on the retina until the retina is detached. Abnormal vessels also sprout around the pupil eventually leading to intractable glaucoma. Blindness ensues.



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How Diabetes Mellitus damages the Eye