

Media Information

CHILDHOOD EYE CANCER TRUST



Thank you for choosing to raise awareness for Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT)!

Childhood Eye Cancer Trust is the only UK charity solely dedicated to helping families and individuals affected by retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer which occurs in children. We provide lifelong support, raise awareness and fund research to reduce the negative impact of this disease

Approximately one child a week in the UK is diagnosed with retinoblastoma.

At CHECT, we:



Provide Support for all – we provide a lifeline for those that need CHECT by offering guidance, emotional support and practical advice from diagnosis, during treatment and throughout the lives of those affected.



Fund Research – We fund pioneering research into the causes, treatment and impacts of retinoblastoma.



Raise Awareness – We raise awareness amongst the general public and healthcare professionals to ensure early diagnosis and treatment.



About retinoblastoma (Rb)

Retinoblastoma is a rare, and sometimes aggressive, form of eye cancer that affects babies and young children, mainly under the age of six. Around 50 cases are diagnosed each year in the UK, equating to approximately one child per week. It represents 3% of all childhood cancers and 10% of cancers in babies under the age of one in the UK.

Around 98% of children survive retinoblastoma in the UK but early diagnosis is crucial in order to save a child's eyes, sight and life. Just under half of children have to have their eye removed as part of their treatment. It can occur in either one or both eyes.

There are two forms of retinoblastoma: genetic (also known as heritable) and non-genetic (known as non-heritable). Approximately 45% of children with retinoblastoma have the heritable form.

The most common symptoms are a white glow in a child's eye or pupil in dim lighting or when a photo is taken using a flash, and a squint. Other symptoms include a change in iris colour, a deterioration in sight, and in a photo where flash is used, where one eye is red, the other appears black.

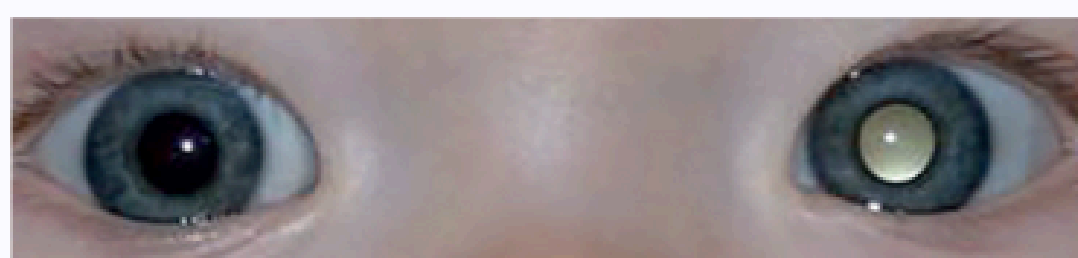
Spotting these symptoms can be worrying. Retinoblastoma is rare, but prompt in-person medical attention is essential. CHECT support workers are available for families with concerns.

More info: www.chect.org.uk

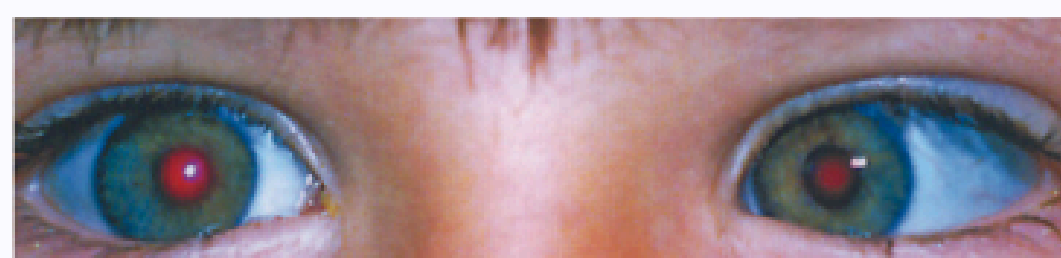
Here are the signs and symptoms of retinoblastoma:

The six main signs of eye cancer

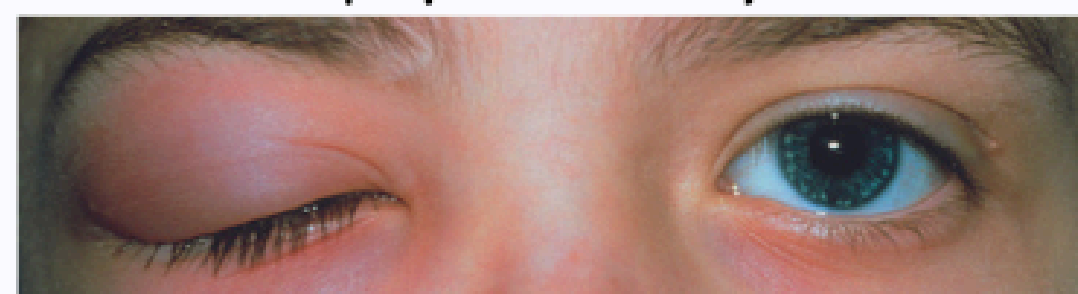
You may see all, or one, of these signs in an eye or photo. Other conditions can show these signs, but it's best to get a see a GP or optician to conduct a fundal (red reflex) test ASAP. Visit www.chect.org.uk for more information.



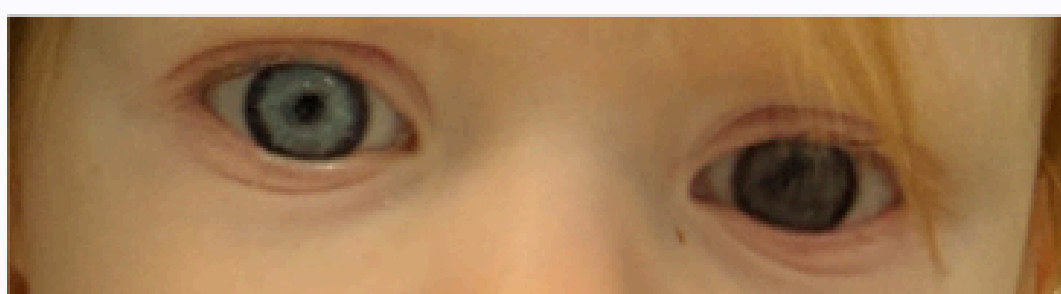
1. A white reflection or glow in the pupil of the eye.



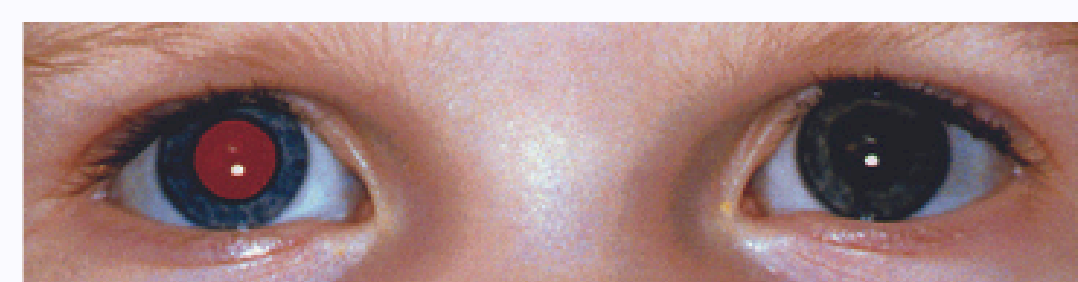
2. A squint, where one eye looks in or out.



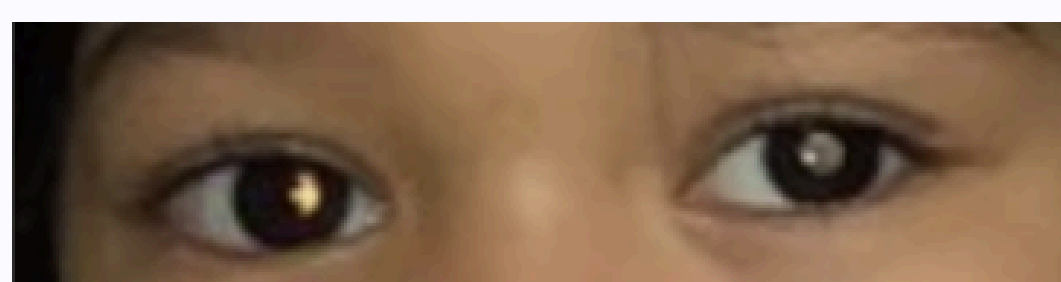
3. A red, sore or swollen eye without infection.



4. A change in the colour of the iris.



5. An absence of red eye in one pupil when one eye has red eye in a photo.



6. You may notice a deterioration in the child's sight - with or without visible changes.

Thank you!

A huge THANK YOU for being an awareness-raiser for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust! Your incredible efforts mean the world to us and to the families we support.

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For more information, visit:

www.chect.org.uk

