

NHS Evidence – eyes and vision  
2010 Annual Evidence Update on Retinal Vein Occlusion  
<http://www.library.nhs.uk/eyes>

## Methodology

This is the first Annual Evidence Update (AEU) for Retinal Vein Occlusion carried out by NHS Evidence – eyes and vision.

In February 2009 the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) published their Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO): Interim Guideline<sup>1</sup>. However as this interim guideline did not undertake a full systematic search on all topic areas, searches for this AEU were undertaken from 2002 to date; the period since searches were completed for the RCOphth 2004 full RVO guideline. This AEU will serve as an update to the guideline.

An initial search was run on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and an update search on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### Databases searched:

- PubMed; Medline 1950 to date; EMBASE 1980 to date; CINAHL 1981 to date; AMED 1985 to date; BNI 1985 to date; PsycInfo 1806 to date; and NHS Evidence - eyes and vision.

**Period of Search:** January 2002 to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010

### Accessed using:

- [NHS Evidence Health Information Resources - Healthcare Databases](#) (NHS Athens Account required)
- [PubMed](#)
- [NHS Evidence - Eyes and Vision](#)

### Inclusion criteria

Included articles had to meet the following criteria:

- Publication types:
  - Secondary publications (including Cochrane systematic reviews, systematic reviews, reviews, meta or cost analysis)
  - Interventional studies (randomised controlled trials and controlled clinical trials).
  - Observational studies (cohorts, case control trials, validation studies, observational or comparative studies, case reports/series, population based cross-sectional and cohort studies and qualitative surveys).
- Published from 2002 on.

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<sup>1</sup> The Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO): Interim Guidelines, February 2009.  
[http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/docs/publications/published-guidelines/RVO\\_Guidelines\\_Feb\\_2009.pdf](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/docs/publications/published-guidelines/RVO_Guidelines_Feb_2009.pdf)

- Relevancy to topics included in the 2010 RVO AEU (epidemiology; diagnosis; management of CRVO; management of BRVO and Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality associated with Retinal Vein Occlusion).

## **Method**

The search outputs were exported into Reference Manager bibliographic software.

The results were automatically de-duplicated. Further duplicate results were removed manually.

The results were then sifted for relevance and categorised by topic (epidemiology; diagnosis; management of CRVO; management of BRVO and Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality associated with Retinal Vein Occlusion) and by publication type. Results were also categorised by potential AEU topic sub-heading. The resultant articles were then passed to the topic contributors for further sifts for relevance. The results were re-categorised according to topic and publication type where necessary.

NHS Evidence – eyes and vision was sifted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 with records indexed with ‘Retinal vascular occlusion’ to ensure that the above search included all the pertinent articles. Relevant guidelines, key documents and seminal articles and uncertainties were identified during this search.

## **Search strategy**

NHS Evidence – eyes and vision RVO AEU Search Strategy available at:

[http://evslarchive.moorfields.nhs.uk/rvo\\_docs\\_0310/pdf/RVOAEU2010searchstrategy.pdf](http://evslarchive.moorfields.nhs.uk/rvo_docs_0310/pdf/RVOAEU2010searchstrategy.pdf)

## **Additional references**

In some cases older seminal research, published prior to 2002, which still contributes to the evidence base for the current management of Retinal Vein Occlusion in the NHS has been included in the topic summaries e.g. the Central Vein Occlusion Study and the Branch Vein Occlusion Study (trials that reported between 15 and 25 years ago). In some cases additional peripheral references, published since 2002 but not identified in the targeted Retinal Vein Occlusion search, have been included to support commentary. These are identified in the reference list of the relevant topic summary.

KP 09/03/10

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15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010