



LHON
A W A R E

**Leber's Hereditary
Optic Neuropathy**

LHON causes rapid, painless, central loss of vision, typically leading to blindness^{1,2}

WARNING SIGNS for SUSPICION of LHON^{1-4,10,11}

- **Rapid, painless, central loss of vision**
- One eye affected initially, followed by the second eye within weeks to months
- Family history of loss of vision or LHON*
- Most often central or centrocaecal scotoma
- The pupillary light reflex is relatively preserved despite the severity of optic atrophy⁶
- Peripapillary telangiectatic microangiopathy and hyperemia of the optic disc in the acute stage
- Optic disc pseudo-oedema and RNFL[#] thickening in the first months after disease onset, followed by progressive thinning^{7**}
- Early and persistent ganglion cell inner plexiform layer thinning detectable before onset of visual loss⁸
- Lack of response to glucocorticoid treatment
- In chronic phase, cupping of the optic disc can be observed in addition to pallor of the neuroretinal rim and RNFL thinning¹²

LHON typically presents in males aged 15-35, but can occur in either sex at any age.

*Family history of LHON may be absent in up to 40% of cases⁵

**Retina can lack typical features of LHON in 20–40% of cases⁹ #RNFL - retinal nerve fiber layer

1. Yu-Wai-Man P, et al. Prog Retin Eye Res. 2011; 30: 81–114. 2. Mascialino B, et al. Eur J Ophthalmol. 2012; 22: 461–465. 3. Newman NJ, Nat Rev Neurol. 2012; 8: 545–556. 4. Fraser JA, Biousse V, Newman NJ. Surv Ophthalmol. 2010; 55: 299–334. 5. Yu-Wai-Man P, et al. J Med Genet. 2002 39(3):162–9. 6. Moura AM, et al. Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2013; 54(7): 4471–4477. 7. Barboni P, et al. Ophthalmology. 2010; 117(3): 623–7. 8. Balducci N, et al. Br J Ophthalmol. 2016; 100: 1232–1237. 9. Yu-Wai-Man P, et al. Eye. 2014; 28(5): 521–37. 10. Carelli V, et al. J Neuroophthalmol. 2017 Dec; 37(4):371–381. 11. Sundaramurthy S, et al. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2021 Sep;259(9):2461–2472. 12. Mashima Y, et al. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2003, 241(2):75–80.

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