PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY
& ADULT STRABISMUS
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Retinoblastoma

Retinoblastoma, a malignant tumor that grows in the retina, the layer of light-sensing cells in the back of the eye, can destroy a child's vision and be fatal. Retinoblastoma can occur in one or both eyes, and usually develops in the first year or two of life. It affects children of all races, and occurs in boys and girls equally.

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.

With early diagnosis, retinoblastoma treatment is remarkably effective. 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.

If a child has had retinoblastoma, there is an increased chance for a second cancer to develop. Children with retinoblastoma should have regular examinations by an ophthalmologist (Eye M.D.) and a pediatric oncologist.