

## PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION OF EYESIGHT AND DRIVING

### **Diabetic retinopathy**

It is estimated that the risk of losing one's eyesight is 20-40 times higher in diabetics than the rest of the population. Diabetic retinopathy should be suspected in all diabetic patients, even if they have good visual acuity, because it is the cause of 70% to 100% of cases of blindness.

### **Degeneration of the retina**

This is found frequently in elderly people, especially in the macular area and often in both eyes, although the level to which it affects each eye can be asymmetric. The impact on eyesight is very significant as it can damage central vision.

### **Senile macular degeneration**

This is a disabling disease that forces changes in everyday behavior and has a considerable impact on more complex activities such as driving. It is found in more than 10% of people over 75.

### **Drusen**

These are yellowish deposits under the retina which do not generally cause symptoms but are associated with a higher risk of developing neovascularization. They are diagnosed during a routine exploration of the back of the eye.

### **Arterial blood flow disorders**

These affect the optic nerve, causing ischemic neuropathies that can seriously affect eyesight.

### **Inflammations of the posterior pole of the eye**

These alter visual capacity due to numerous relapses, this being the case of hereditary or degenerative diseases of the retina, diseases of the visual pathways such as neuritis and papillitis, demyelinating diseases, toxic neuropathies due to alcohol or tobacco, and retinal dystrophies.