

Know the glow

Retinoblastoma is a cancerous tumor in the back of the eye (retina) and is caused by a gene mutation. Retinoblastoma occurs in children less than five years of age. Approximately 40% of retinoblastoma tumors occur because of a mutation that affects all cells in the body and these patients can transmit the mutation to their kids. Untreated retinoblastoma is fatal. Early detection of the cancer is critical to save lives, to save the eye and to get the best visual outcome possible.

The treatment options for retinoblastoma include laser, freezing treatment, systemic chemotherapy, local chemotherapy with intra-arterial drug delivery, chemotherapy injection directly into the eye (intra-vitreous chemotherapy), radiation treatment and eye removal in advanced cases.

Retinoblastoma is often detected by a **yellow glow** seen in the pupil of the eye replacing the normal red eye that is seen while taking photographs. If you, or your family member or friend has this unusual reflex please seek medical care at the earliest. Photographs with the yellow reflex have been brought to attention even in social media posts and have saved kids' lives. There can be other causes of the white reflex but immediate medical attention to rule out retinoblastoma is warranted.

