

TABLE 7 SIDE EFFECTS AND COMPLICATIONS OF TREATMENT FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

| Treatment | Side Effect/Complication |
|--|---|
| Focal laser photocoagulation for diabetic macular edema | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possible transient initial decrease in central vision• Paracentral scotomas if laser burns have been placed close to the fovea, especially large or confluent burns¹³¹• Permanent central scotoma from inadvertent foveal burns• Expansion of laser scar area (over many years) |
| Panretinal photocoagulation (scatter) for severe NPDR or PDR | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transient central vision loss from macular edema¹⁰²• Peripheral visual field constriction with delayed dark adaptation• Vitreous hemorrhage if neovascularization is present• Reduced or compromised accommodation¹³²• Pupillary dilation (mydriasis) |
| Vitrectomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recurrent vitreous hemorrhage^{133,134}• Retinal tear or detachment¹³⁵• Vision loss^{135,136}• Infectious endophthalmitis¹³⁷• Cataract¹³⁸ |
| Intravitreal injections | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cataract^{139,140}• Elevated intraocular pressure (i.e., corticosteroids)^{139,140}• Infectious endophthalmitis• Noninfectious inflammatory reactions• Possible systemic effect from intravitreal medication• Increased retinal traction |

NPDR = nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; PDR = proliferative diabetic retinopathy