

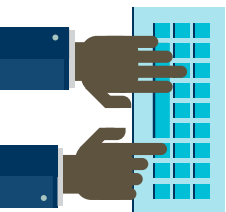
PATIENT RESOURCES

NEWLY DIAGNOSED

The diagnosis of a blinding retinal disease is often overwhelming. But if you or a loved one has been recently diagnosed, getting connected to the Foundation Fighting Blindness is a great way to get educated, better manage your condition, and find support.

Here are some helpful steps you can take to get on a positive path moving forward:

1 LEARN ABOUT YOUR DIAGNOSIS




Visit the Foundation's website, [FightingBlindness.org](https://www.fightingblindness.org), to find a wealth of information in different forms such as articles, videos, and podcasts. The **Retinal Education** section provides disease-specific information, and you can find out about ongoing clinical trials and potential cures in our **Research** section.

2 FIND A SPECIALIST


There are some **Retina Specialists** (visit the **Resources** section of our website) who see and study patients on a regular basis. These experts are often better able to:



 Manage any complications

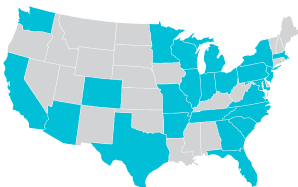
 Conduct appropriate tests and exams

 Discuss your prognosis

 Suggest potential clinical trials for emerging therapies

3 GET CONNECTED WITH OUR COMMUNITIES




The Foundation maintains a network of Chapters around the U.S. and holds seminars and meetings that provide information on research, low vision resources, and other helpful topics. Joining a Chapter is a great way to meet other people and families with blinding diseases in your area who can provide support and information on local resources.



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4 CONSIDER GENETIC TESTING

-  Gives you a definitive diagnosis for which disease is causing vision loss.
-  Confirms the inheritance pattern – that is, which family members may be at risk of having or inheriting the condition.
-  Helps you qualify for clinical trials of emerging therapies. Some studies may require a genetic diagnosis.

Researchers have identified **more than 351 genes** associated with retinal degenerative diseases.



Visit the **Genetic Testing** section of the Foundation's website for more information.

My Retina Tracker® Registry (the Foundation's patient database) provides valuable information and data on IRDs to pre-screened researchers and companies for:

-  Developing therapies
-  Recruiting for clinical trials
-  Performing other disease-related studies

5 DRIVE SIGHT-SAVING RESEARCH

The Foundation is a world leader in driving the research that is eradicating the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

-  Visit the **Ways to Give** section of our website to learn about the ways you can help drive the research.
-  Visit **VisionWalk.org** to learn about our signature fundraising walks held around the country.

6 STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest from the Foundation about research, clinical trials, events and more through our newsletter, podcasts and social media.

-  **Sign up** for email updates and news

