## DEFINITION

1. Retinitis pigmentosa is a degenerative disease of the retina which often results in blindness in middle or advanced age.

## CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. The earliest symptom is usually defective vision in the dusk (night-blindness). This commonly begins in childhood and it almost invariably affects both eyes. The fields of vision become gradually contracted from the periphery. As the condition progresses the field of vision becomes smaller until it is restricted to an area around the fixation point (this is known as tunnel or tube vision). Loss of central vision does not usually occur until 50 or 60 years of age.

## AETIOLOGY

3. Retinitis pigmentosa is wholly genetically determined. In the majority of cases the inheritance is recessive. Occasionally it is dominant but in these cases it is a milder condition. Exceptionally it is sex-linked.

4. The condition may be associated with obesity, hypogenitalism, mental defect and polydactyly (Laurence-Moon-Biedl syndrome).

## CONCLUSION

5. **Retinitis pigmentosa** is a genetically-determined which condition which results in degeneration of the retina of the eye.

## REFERENCE

Trevor-Roper Patrick D. Lecture Notes on Ophthalmology. 7th Ed. 1986. Oxford. Blackwell Scientific Publications. p57-58.

Miller Stephen J H. Parsons' Diseases of the Eye. 18th Ed. 1990. Edinburgh. Churchill Livingstone. p242-243.

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