

What is MacTel?

Macular Telangiectasia Type 2 (MacTel) is an eye disorder that causes gradual deterioration of central vision.

Patients usually begin to notice changes in their vision around 40 to 50 years of age.

MacTel greatly impacts a person's quality of life

MacTel is a disease of the retina, the light sensing tissue at the back of the eye. Changes mostly occur in the center of the retina.

Central vision is required for tasks that require sharp vision, like reading and driving. In MacTel, central vision is lost over a period of 10 to 20 years or more.



A Program of
**The Lowy Medical
Research Institute**

The MacTel Project



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*Eye Tissue
Donation
Program*

What is the MacTel Project?

The only international project devoted entirely to the study of MacTel

The MacTel Project is a program of The Lowy Medical Research Institute. The Institute oversees clinical, translational and basic science research relevant to MacTel.

The MacTel Project was established to develop a better understanding of the clinical features MacTel, to determine if there is a genetic basis for the disease, to develop new laboratory models to study MacTel, and to identify and test potential treatments.

The project includes clinicians, geneticists, retinal imaging specialists, and basic scientists.

Teams at more than 30 centers in North America, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East are involved in the MacTel Project.

Why is the MacTel Project Important?

The MacTel Project connects participants with clinicians and researchers who specialize in the study of MacTel.

The MacTel Project's efforts have resulted in a new understanding of the disease. This has changed the course of research, and has brought a potential therapy to clinical trials. The project keeps participants informed about opportunities for treatment.

The project has also raised awareness of the disease among clinicians. As a result, patients are diagnosed earlier and there is less confusion in the diagnosis. For example, MacTel was once frequently mistaken for macular degeneration. Now the disorder is more accurately diagnosed.

How Can You Help?

As a participant, you are making a significant contribution to the study of MacTel by participating in the Natural History and Registry Studies.

Access to eye tissue from MacTel patients is absolutely critical to better understand the disease and develop new therapies.

We ask that you consider one additional contribution: **a gift of eye tissue after you have died.**

If you are considering eye tissue donation, please discuss this with your family. It is very important that they are aware of your wishes, and that they agree with your decision.

Your Ophthalmologist or your MacTel Study Coordinator can provide more details on the donation process.

Please consider making an invaluable contribution to MacTel research:

EYE TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

More information can be found at: www.lmri.net/eye-donation