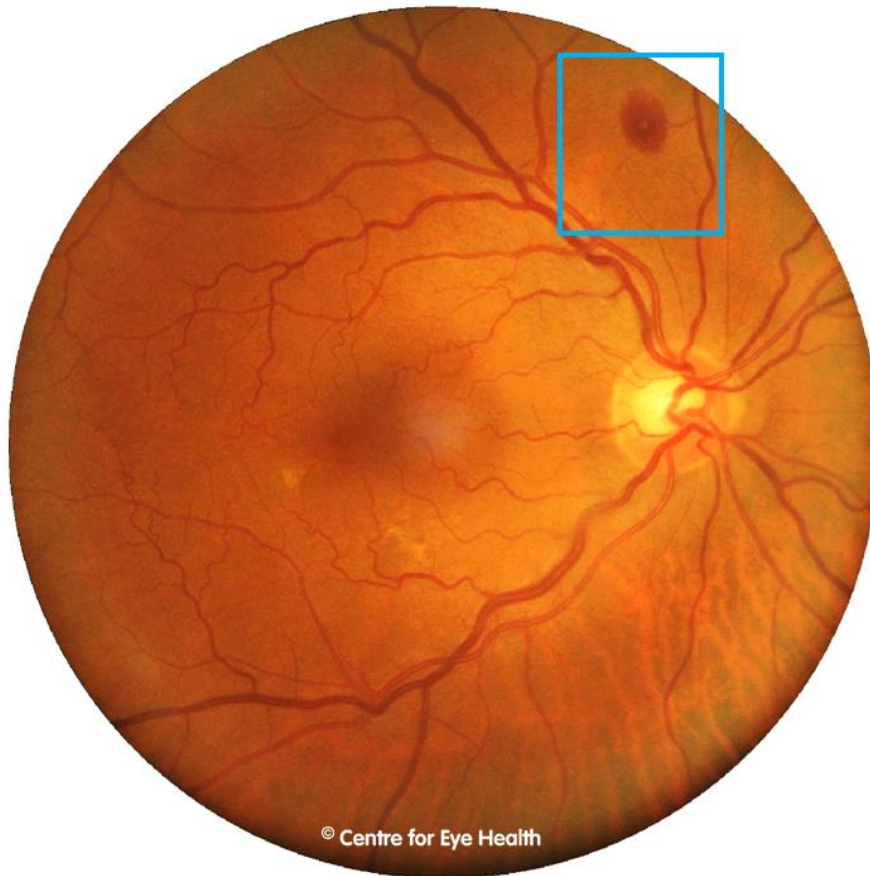




## CFEH Facebook Case #134

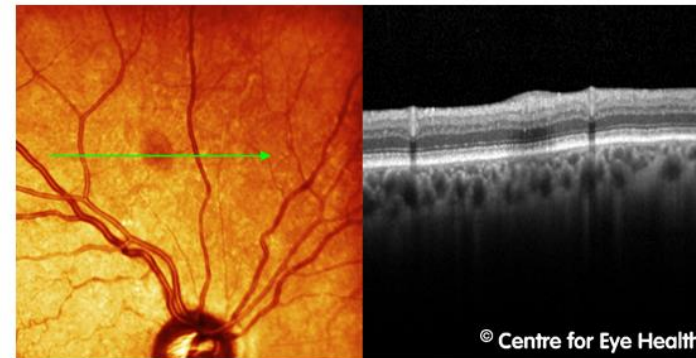
A 74 year old male presented for a glaucoma assessment. His best corrected acuity was 6/6 in each eye and he reports taking medication for both hypertension and type 2 diabetes. The left eye was unremarkable and this case will focus on the right eye only. What is the significance of the haemorrhage seen superior to the optic disc?



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## Answer

The haemorrhage is a Roth spot, characterised by the white spot in the centre.

Roth spots are thought to result from the rupture of retinal capillaries and extrusion of blood, leading to the formation of a platelet-fibrin thrombus (the white spot). historically these were first identified in patients with acute bacterial endocarditis and for some time were considered pathognomonic of this condition.

Retinal haemorrhages are commonly seen in patients with underlying systemic disease processes that predispose to retinal endothelial dysfunction and rupture including diabetes, hypertension, anaemia, bacterial endocarditis and HIV but they can also be seen in cases of significant trauma or intracranial haemorrhage.

The patient was referred to his GP for a full systemic workup.