Papilloedema

Optic nerve head becomes engorged and swollen due to cerebral oedema

Key signs on examination:

1. Earliest change is disc **hyperaemia**
   a. Caused by capillary dilatation in nerve head.
2. **Blurring** of disc margins
   a. Usually begins on nasal margin
3. **Paton’s** lines
   a. Peripapillary oedema
   b. Curvilinear retinal folds present only on the temporal side of the disc
   c. Reliable indicator of true disc oedema
   d. As the oedema increases, paton’s lines are no longer seen
4. Obscuration of blood **vessels**
   a. Obscuration of one or more segments of major blood vessels leaving the disc
5. Absent spontaneous venous **pulsations**
   a. Unreliable
   b. Presence of venous pulsation dose not outrule papilloedema
6. Retinal veins **engorged** and tortuous
7. Obliteration of the **optic cup**
   a. Usually seen only in marked papilloedema
8. **Other** non-specific features
   a. Cotton-wool spots
   b. Flame-shaped haemorrhages