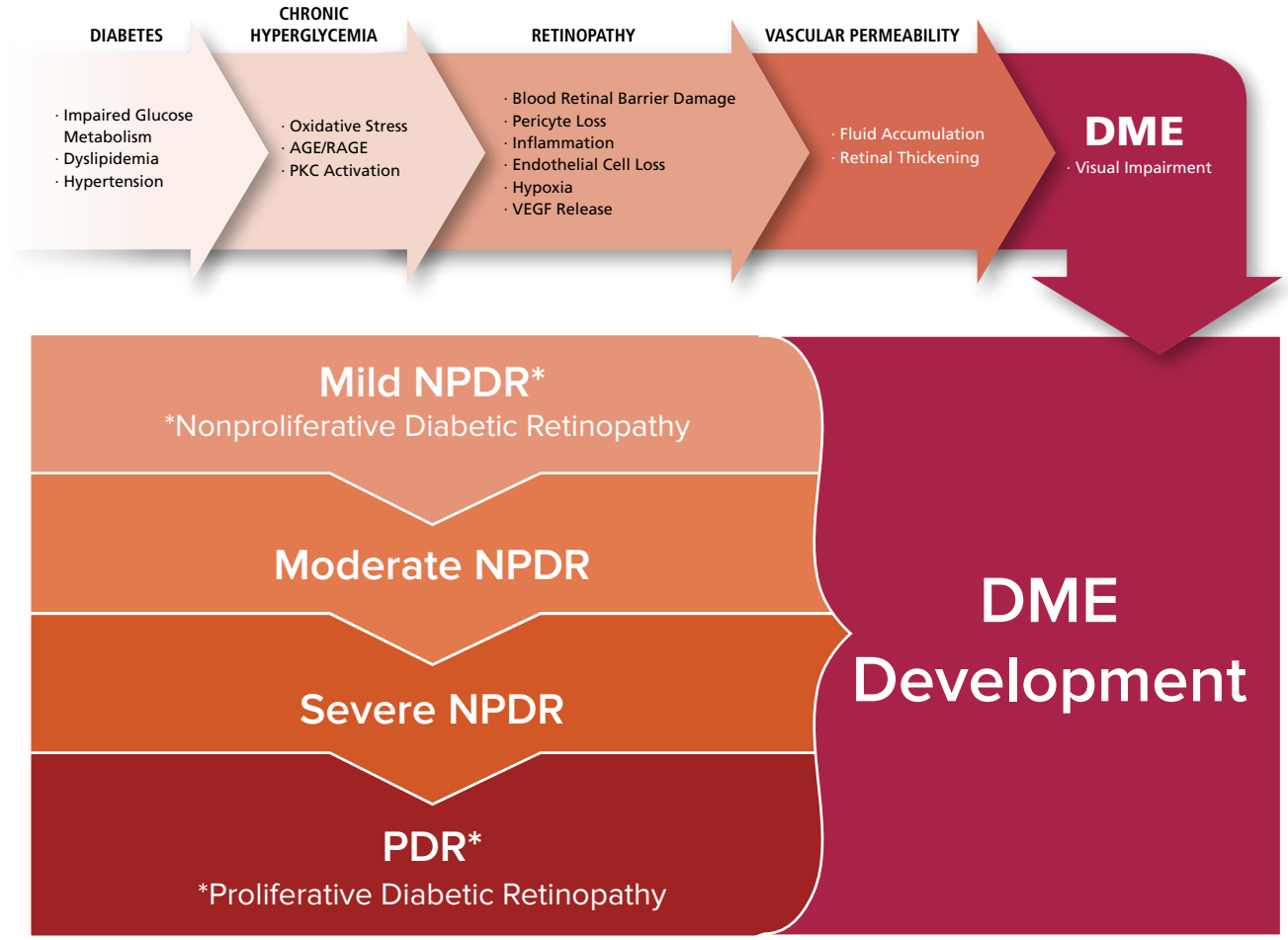
MODULE 6.12
Summary

The biological path to decreased vision due to diabetic retinopathy (DR) and diabetic macular edema (DME) begins with chronically elevated blood glucose levels. Over time, poor glycemic control damages the vascular tissue, in particular the endothelial cells and the pericytes (perivascular cells), resulting in vascular dysfunction, inflammation, and hypoxia. Hypoxia, in turn, causes increased vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) levels in retinal tissue, leading to increased vascular permeability and an accumulation of fluid.[1]

Diabetic Retinopathy and DME



References

1. Cheung N, Mitchell P, Wong TY. Diabetic retinopathy. *Lancet*. 2010;376:124-136.