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PHARMACOLOGY

PHS 212

MYOPIA or NEARSHIGHTED

Myopia occurs when the eyeball is too long, relative to the focusing power of the cornea and lens of the eye. This causes light rays to focus at a point in front of the retina, rather than directly on its surface If you're nearsighted, the first number ("sphere") on your eyeglasses prescription will be preceded by a minus sign (–). The higher the number, the more nearsighted you are

HYPEROPIA or FARESIGHTED

This vision problem occurs when light rays entering the eye focus behind the retina, rather than directly on it. The eyeball of a farsighted person is shorter than normal   
Farsightedness can be corrected with glasses to change the way light rays bend into the eyes. If your glasses begins with plus numbers, like +1.50, you are farsighted

ASTIGMATISM

Instead of the cornea having a symmetrically round shape (like a tennis ball), it is shaped more like a rugby ball, with one meridian being significantly more curved than the meridian perpendicular to it   
Astigmatism usually causes vision to be blurred or distorted to some degree at all distances. Symptoms of uncorrected astigmatism are eye strain and headaches, especially after reading or other prolonged visual tasks   
Astigmatism is usually combined with Myopia or Hyperopia

PRESBYOPIA

Presbyopia generally is believed to stem from a gradual thickening and loss of flexibility of the natural lens inside your eye   
Presbyopia usually occurs beginning at around age 40, when people experience blurred near vision when reading, sewing or working at the computer. Everyone becomes presbyopic

Eyestrain

Anyone who reads for hours, works at a computer, or drives long distances knows about this one. It happens when you overuse your [eyes](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/picture-of-the-eyes). They get tired and need to rest, just like any other part of your body.

If your [eyes](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/ss/slideshow-eye-conditions-overview) feel strained, give them some time off. If they’re still weary after a few days, check with your doctor to make sure it isn’t another problem.

Red Eyes

Your [eyes](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-assessment/default.htm) look bloodshot. Why?

Their surface is covered in [blood](https://www.webmd.com/heart/anatomy-picture-of-blood) vessels that expand when they’re irritated or infected. That gives your eyes the red look.

Eyestrain can do it, and so can a late night, a lack of [sleep](https://www.webmd.com/sleep-disorders/default.htm), or [allergies](https://www.webmd.com/allergies/default.htm). If an injury is the cause, get it checked by your doctor.

Red eyes could be a symptom of another eye condition, like [conjunctivitis](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-health-conjunctivitis) ([pinkeye](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/ss/slideshow-pinkeye)) or [sun damage](https://www.webmd.com/melanoma-skin-cancer/ss/slideshow-sun-damaged-skin) from not wearing shades over the years. If over-the-counter eye drops and rest don’t clear it up, see your doctor.

Night Blindness

Is it hard to see at night, especially while driving? Is it tough to find your way around in dark places, such as movie theaters?

That sounds like [night blindness](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/night-vision-problems-halos-blurred-vision-night-blindness). It’s a symptom, not a problem in its own right. [Nearsightedness](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/nearsightedness-myopia), [cataracts](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/cataracts/), [keratoconus](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/keratoconus), and a lack of [vitamin A](https://www.webmd.com/vitamins-supplements/ingredientmono-964-vitamin+a.aspx?activeingredientid=964&activeingredientname=vitamin+a) all cause a type of [night blindness](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-vision-tv/video-halos-and-glare) that doctors can fix.

Some people are born with this problem, or it might develop from a degenerative disease involving the retina, and that usually can’t be treated. If you have it, you’ll need to be extra careful in areas of low light.

Lazy Eye

[Lazy eye](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/amblyopia-child-eyes), or amblyopia, happens when one eye doesn’t develop properly. Vision is weaker in that eye, and it tends to move “lazily” around while the other eye stays put. It’s found in infants, children, and adults, and rarely affects both eyes. Treatment needs to be sought immediately for infants and children.

Lifelong vision problems can be avoided if a lazy eye is detected and treated during early childhood. Treatment includes corrective glasses or contact lenses and using a patch or other strategies to make a child use the lazy eye.

Cross Eyes (Strabismus) and Nystagmus

If your eyes aren’t lined up with each other when you look at something, you could have strabismus. You might also hear it called crossed eyes or walleye.

This problem won’t go away on its own. You’ll need to get an [ophthalmologist](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-doctors-optometrists-ophthalmologists), or eye specialist, to correct it.

With [nystagmus](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/nystagmus), the eye moves or "jiggles" all the time on its

Your eye is like a tire: Some pressure inside it is normal and safe. But levels that are too high can damage your optic nerve. [Glaucoma](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/glaucoma-eyes) is the name for a group of diseases that cause this condition.

A common form is primary open angle [glaucoma](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-vision-tv/video-glaucoma). Most people who have it don’t have early symptoms or pain. So it's important to keep up with your regular [eye exams](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eye-tests-exams).

It doesn’t happen often, but glaucoma can be caused by:

* An injury to the eye
* Blocked blood vessels
* Inflammatory disorders of the eye

Treatment includes prescription eye drops or surgery.

Retinal Disorders

The retina is a thin lining on the back of your eye that is made up of cells that collect images and pass them on to your [brain](https://www.webmd.com/brain/picture-of-the-brain). Retinal disorders block this transfer. There are different types:

* Age-related [macular degeneration](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/macular-degeneration/default.htm) refers to a breakdown of a small portion of the retina called the macula.
* [Diabetic retinopathy](https://www.webmd.com/diabetes/diabetic-retinopathy) is damage to the blood vessels in your retina caused by [diabetes](https://www.webmd.com/diabetes/default.htm).
* Retinal detachment happens when the retina separates from the layer underneath.

It’s important to get an early diagnosis and have these conditions treated.

Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye)

In this condition, tissue that lines the back of your eyelids and covers your sclera gets inflamed. It can cause redness, itching, burning, tearing, discharge, or a feeling that something is in your eye.

People of all ages can get it. Causes include infection, exposure to chemicals and irritants, or [allergies](https://www.webmd.com/allergies/allergies-assessment/default.htm).

[Wash your hands](https://www.webmd.com/men/video/dirty-truth-handwashing) often to lower your chance of getting it.

Corneal Diseases

The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped "window" at the front of your eye. It helps to focus the light that comes in. Disease, infection, injury, and exposure to toxins can damage it. Signs include:

* Red eyes
* Watery eyes
* Pain
* Reduced vision, or a halo effect

The main treatment methods include:

* A new [eyeglasses](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/eyeglasses-that-do-the-job) or contacts prescription
* Medicated eye drops
* Surgery