



Eye Problems

Below you will find information on some common eye conditions.

Early Childhood Conditions

Strabismus *(also known as 'crossed eyes' or 'wall eyes')*

This is when, relative to each other, one eye is turned too far in or out. Sometimes, in the first few months of life, a baby's eyes may cross occasionally, but when an eye is constantly turned it should be examined by an optometrist. The problem can usually be helped.

Amblyopia *(also known as 'lazy eye')*

This condition occurs when normal vision does not develop in one eye because the 'lazy eye' sends a poor message to the brain. This can usually be helped with glasses, eye drops or a patch. The patch is usually put over the stronger eye, but may sometimes be placed over the weaker eye.

Refractive Errors

Like any other part of the body, the eye grows, works, tires and ages. It can be injured. It can become diseased. However, most vision problems are not diseases, but refractive errors. These are minor flaws in the way the eye is built that cause it to focus incorrectly.

Myopia *(also called short-sightedness)*

Someone with this condition will see nearby objects more clearly than objects which are far away. It occurs when the eyeball is too long or the cornea is too rounded and light is focused in front of the retina instead of directly on it. Glasses or contact lenses can correct the problem.

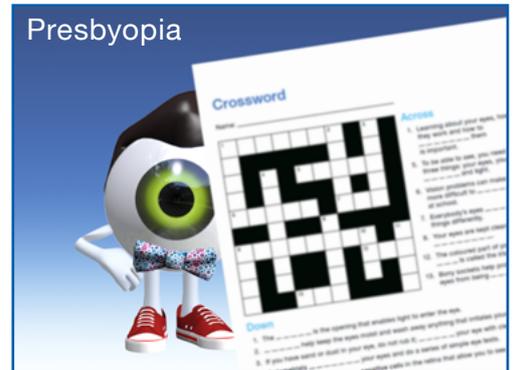




Presbyopia

This happens when the lens of the eye becomes hard and less flexible with age. It then becomes harder to bring nearby objects into focus. Everyone becomes presbyopic, usually between 40 and 50 years of age.

Presbyopia

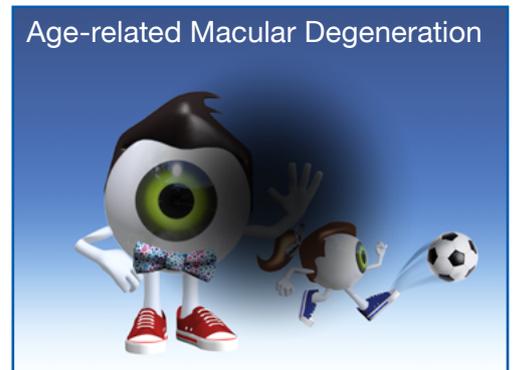


Common Eye Diseases

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

This condition is the leading cause of blindness in older people. It affects a tiny area in the middle of the retina called the macula. AMD can destroy the central vision. This vision is needed for doing common daily tasks such as reading and driving. Scientists are learning what causes AMD and how it can be better treated.

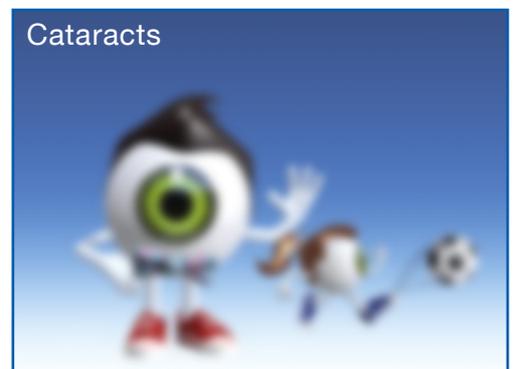
Age-related Macular Degeneration



Cataracts

These form when the lens of the eye grows cloudy. In a commonly performed operation, the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with a plastic lens. It is very safe and successful surgery, and is the most common surgery for people over age 60.

Cataracts

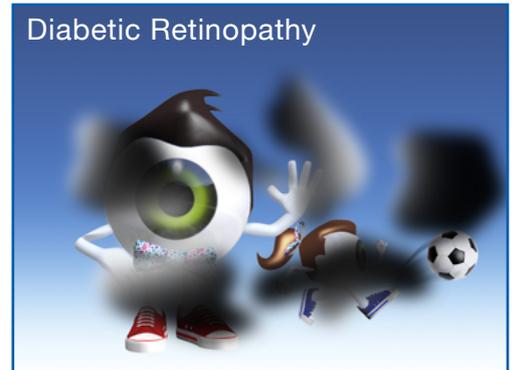




Diabetic Retinopathy

People with diabetes are at high risk for diabetic retinopathy. This disease damages the blood vessels in the eye and is a major cause of blindness in adults. Serious vision loss can be prevented or treated using lasers or surgery. People with diabetes should have an eye exam with their optometrist at least once a year.

Diabetic Retinopathy



Glaucoma

This is called the 'sneak thief of sight', because it does not give any warning signs. This blinding disease damages the optic nerve. Glaucoma is treated with medication, lasers and surgery. People over 60 are at higher risk for glaucoma and should have an eye exam with their optometrist at least once every two years.

Glaucoma

