

# Eye Problems



## How Aging Affects the Eyes

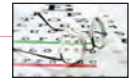
Growing older does not always mean you see poorly. But you may not see as well as you did before. Common changes that affect your eyes are:

- “Aging Eyes.” The medical term for this is **presbyopia** (prez-bee-OH-pea-ah). This comes on slowly after age 40. Close objects or small print are harder to see. You may have to hold reading materials at arm’s length. You may get headaches or “tired eyes” while you read or do other close work. Presbyopia can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses.
- The need for more light in order to see clearly. With aging, the pupil in the eye is unable to open as wide or to adapt to light as fast as it did before. This can make it harder to see in the dark. It can make it harder to tell one color from another. Blues can look like different shades of gray. To help with this, add more and brighter lights in places around the house, such as at work counters, stairways, and favorite reading places. This may help you see better and can sometimes prevent accidents. Also, don’t wear tinted glasses or sunglasses at night, especially when you drive.

## Eye Problems Chart

Signs & Symptoms	What It Could Be	What to Do
Sudden loss of all or part of vision, especially in one eye with sudden weakness or numbness on one side	Stroke	Get immediate care. <b>Call 9-1-1.</b>
Vision loss after head or eye injury. Sudden vision loss or blurred vision, and seeing dark spots, or flashes of light all of a sudden.	Detached or torn retina	Get immediate care.

*Eye Problems Chart Continued on Next Page*



### *Eye Problems Chart, Continued*

<b>Signs &amp; Symptoms</b>	<b>What It Could Be</b>	<b>What to Do</b>
Severe pain in and above the eye. Eye redness, swollen upper eyelid. Dilated and fixed pupil. Very blurred vision, halos around lights.	Angle-closure glaucoma	Get immediate care. See “Glaucoma” at HealthyLearn.com.
Object or chemical in the eye	Eye irritation or injury	See “Eye Irritations & Injuries” at HealthyLearn.com.
Gradual loss of side vision. Blurred vision. Halos around lights. Poor night vision.	Open-angle or chronic glaucoma	See “Glaucoma” at HealthyLearn.com.
Dark or blind spot in center of vision. Blurred or cloudy vision. Straight lines look wavy.	Macular degeneration	See “Macular Degeneration” at HealthyLearn.com.
Cloudy, fuzzy, foggy, or filmy vision. Halos around lights. Problems with glare from lamps or the sun.	Cataract	See “Cataracts” at HealthyLearn.com.
Pus discharge from the eye; the white of the eye and eyelid are red; crusting of the eyelid in the morning; feeling of sand in the eye	Conjunctivitis (“Pink Eye”)	See “Pink Eye” at HealthyLearn.com.
Firm lump on eyelid or tender pimple on the edge of the eyelid	Stye	See “Stye” at HealthyLearn.com.
Seeing spots, specks, wavy lines, or streaks of light	Floaters and/or flashes	See “Floaters and Flashes” at HealthyLearn.com.
Blurred vision when you look at close objects; headaches; eyestrain	“Aging Eyes” or presbyopia	Call eye doctor for an appointment and advice.