



FIG 4-17 Structures of fundus. (From Ball JW, Dains JE, Flynn JA, et al: *Seidel's guide to physical examination*, ed 8, St Louis, 2014, Elsevier.)

As the ophthalmoscope is brought closer to the eye, the most conspicuous feature of the fundus is the **optic disc**, the area where the blood vessels and optic nerve fibers enter and exit the eye. The disc is orange to creamy pink with a pale center and lighter in color than the surrounding fundus. Normally, it is round or vertically oval.

After locating the optic disc, inspect the area for blood vessels. The central retinal artery and vein appear in the depths of the disc and emanate outward with visible branching. The veins are darker and about one fourth larger than the arteries. Normally, the branches of the arteries and veins cross each other.

Other structures that are common are the **macula**, the area of the fundus with the greatest concentration of visual receptors, and in the center of the macula, a minute glistening spot of reflected light called the **fovea centralis**; this is the area of most perfect vision.

Vision Testing

The [US Preventive Services Task Force \(2011\)](#) recommends vision screening for the presence of amblyopia and its risk factors for all children 3 to 5 years old. Several tests are available for assessing vision. This discussion focuses on ocular alignment, visual acuity, peripheral vision, and color vision. [Chapter 18](#) discusses behavioral and physical signs of visual impairment. Nurses can provide accurate vision screening with appropriate training ([Mathers, Keyes, and Wright, 2010](#)).