Proofed 11/28/11 jm

Proofed 11-25-09 ma

Proofed 12-11-07 ma

Vision problems in adults: Symptom Checker

**DocID**

No DocID – not contained in FarCry

**Title**

Vision problems

**Feature Title**

Vision problems

**List Title**

Vision problems

**Content is Contracted**

No

**Licensable**

No

**Searchable**

No

**Target pub date**

01/19/2012

**Review in months?**

24

**MCV Main tag**

**MCV Other tag(s)**

Content Packages > Symptom checker mobile > Adult > Head and neck

**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Diseases and Conditions

**Tease**

Vision problems, even those easily corrected, can greatly affect everyday activities. Identify possible common causes based on symptoms you're experiencing.

**Abstract**

Find possible common causes of vision problems in adults. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

**Editor**

Douglas O'Hara

**Content Producer**

Alicia Bartz

**Content Lead**

MayoClinic Com

**Product Lead**

**WPS**

Becky Hynes

**Medical Reviewers**

Dennis Robertson, M.D.|Carl Anderson, M.D.

**Source**

**Keywords**

N/A

**SEO Title**

N/A

**SEO URL Keyword**

vision-problems

**SEO Description**

N/A

**Billboard**

**Billboard Large**

**Internal comments**

**Alternate Titles**

**FeatureID**

**Gender**

**Age**

Adult

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Get emergency medical care if you have sudden changes in vision or injury to your eye. Specific factors that may accompany urgent vision-related medical conditions include sudden onset of: (1-5)

Severe eye pain or irritation

Vision loss or double vision

Eye floaters, flashes of light or halos around lights

Severe headache

Nausea or vomiting

Numbness or paralysis on one side of the body

Confusion, dizziness or difficulty speaking

See a specialist in vision problems (optometrist or ophthalmologist) if you experience any vision problems that impair your ability to read or write comfortably, drive safely, or participate in everyday activities.

**Self-care strategies**

Because of the nature of this symptom, it's best to contact an eye doctor as soon as possible. Please see the "Seek Care" section to determine an appropriate course of action.

**More Information**

Slide show: Vision problems as you age HA00061

Eye floaters DS01036

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of vision problems based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your symptom.

**Problem is**

Blurry distant objects

Blurry nearby objects

Blurry or blind spot in center of vision

Blurry vision at all distances

Bright zigzag lines

Clouded, hazy or dim vision

Double vision

Fading of colors

Flashes of light

Glare with bright lights

Halos around lights

Inability to distinguish certain shades of color

Loss of side vision

Objects appear crooked or distorted

Poor night vision

Progressive expansion of shadow or curtain over visual field

Seeing nonexistent things, or hallucinating

Sensitivity to light

Shimmering spots or stars

Spots or strings floating in field of vision

Swelling around the eye

Tunnel vision

Vision loss, partial or total

**Problem affects**

Both eyes

One eye

**Vision improves somewhat with**

Holding objects away from face

Holding objects close to face

Squinting

Use of bright lighting

**Onset is**

Gradual or progressive

Recent (hours to days)

Sudden (seconds to minutes)

**Duration is**

A few minutes

Usually no longer than 30 minutes

**Accompanied by**

Confusion or difficulty speaking

Dizziness or difficulty walking

Eye pain or discomfort

Eye redness

Eyestrain

Headache

Numbness or paralysis on one side of the body

Other sensory disturbances

**Possible causes** (6, p. 399-401; 7, p. 348-349; 8)

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS00230 Astigmatism (9, 23)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is objects appear crooked or distorted

Vision improves somewhat with squinting

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS00050 Cataracts (10)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is clouded, hazy or dim vision

Problem is double vision

Problem is fading of colors

Problem is glare with bright lights

Problem is halos around lights

Problem is poor night vision

Problem is sensitivity to light

Onset is gradual or progressive

DS00284 Dry macular degeneration (12)

Problem is blurry nearby objects

Problem is blurry or blind spot in center of vision

Problem is clouded, hazy or dim vision

Problem is fading of colors

Problem is poor night vision

Problem is seeing nonexistent things, or hallucinating

Vision improves somewhat with use of bright lighting

Onset is gradual or progressive

DS01036 Eye floaters (13)

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

DS00527 Farsightedness (14)

Problem is blurry nearby objects

Vision improves somewhat with holding objects away from face

Vision improves somewhat with squinting

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS00283 Glaucoma (1)

Problem is loss of side vision

Problem is tunnel vision

Onset is gradual or progressive

DS01128 Iritis (8, p. 3; 15)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Onset is recent (hours to days)

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

Accompanied by eye redness

DS00908 Migraine with aura (16, 23)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is bright zigzag lines

Problem is flashes of light

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is shimmering spots or stars

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Onset is sudden (seconds to minutes)

Duration is usually no longer than 30 minutes

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by other sensory disturbances

DS00528 Nearsightedness (17)

Problem is blurry distant objects

Vision improves somewhat with holding objects close to face

Vision improves somewhat with squinting

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS00882 Optic neuritis (18, 23)

Problem is fading of colors

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Problem affects one eye

Onset is recent (hours to days)

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

DS00233 Poor color vision (19)

Problem is inability to distinguish certain shades of color

DS00589 Presbyopia (20)

Problem is blurry nearby objects

Vision improves somewhat with holding objects away from face

Vision improves somewhat with squinting

Onset is gradual or progressive

Accompanied by eyestrain

Accompanied by headache

DS00254 Retinal detachment (2, 23)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is flashes of light

Problem is progressive expansion of shadow or curtain over visual field

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Problem affects one eye

Onset is sudden (seconds to minutes)

DS00150 Stroke (3, 5, 23)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is double vision

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Problem affects both eyes

Onset is sudden (seconds to minutes)

Accompanied by confusion or difficulty speaking

Accompanied by dizziness or difficulty walking

Accompanied by numbness or paralysis on one side of the body

DS00220 Transient ischemic attack (TIA) (4, 5, 23)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is double vision

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Problem affects one eye

Onset is sudden (seconds to minutes)

Duration is a few minutes

Accompanied by confusion or difficulty speaking

Accompanied by dizziness or difficulty walking

Accompanied by numbness or paralysis on one side of the body

DS00677 Uveitis(8, p. 2; 21)

Problem is blurry vision at all distances

Problem is sensitivity to light

Problem is spots or strings floating in field of vision

Problem is vision loss, partial or total

Accompanied by eye pain or discomfort

Problem is swelling around the eye

DS01086 Wet macular degeneration (22, 23)

Problem is blurry or blind spot in center of vision

Problem is fading of colors

Problem is objects appear crooked or distorted

Problem is seeing nonexistent things, or hallucinating

Onset is recent (hours to days)

Glaucoma. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/glaucoma/DS00283. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Retinal detachment. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/retinal-detachment/DS00254. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Stroke. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/stroke/DS00150. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Transient ischemic attack (TIA). MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/transient-ischemic-attack/DS00220. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Heart attack, stroke and cardiac arrest warning signs. American Heart Association. http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3053. Accessed Sept. 28, 2009.

Seller RH. Differential Diagnosis of Common Complaints. 5th ed. Philadelphia, Pa.: Saunders Elsevier; 2007.

Kahan S, et al. In a Page Signs and Symptoms. 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2009.

Eye pain. The Merck Manuals: The Merck Manual for Healthcare Professionals. http://www.merck.com/mmpe/sec09/ch098/ch098g.html. Accessed Oct. 3, 2009.

Astigmatism. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/astigmatism/DS00230. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Cataracts. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/cataracts/DS00050. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

~~Diabetic retinopathy. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/diabetic-retinopathy/DS00447. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.~~

Dry macular degeneration. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/macular-degeneration/DS00284. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Eye floaters. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/eye-floaters/DS01036. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Farsightedness. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/farsightedness/DS00527. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Iritis. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/iritis/DS01128. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Migraine with aura. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/migraine-with-aura/DS00908. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Nearsightedness. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/nearsightedness/DS00528. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Optic neuritis. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/optic-neuritis/DS00882. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Poor color vision. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/optic-neuritis/DS00882. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Presbyopia. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/presbyopia/DS00589. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Uveitis. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/uveitis/DS00677. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Wet macular degeneration. MayoClinic.com. http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/wet-macular-degeneration/DS01086. Accessed Nov. 13, 2009.

Robertson D (expert opinion). Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Nov. 23, 2009.

PAGE 6