

Eye Problems

Eye Problems and Cancer Treatment:

Eye problems can occur for a variety of reasons.

In some cases, anti-cancer medications and medications used to reduce side effects may contribute to the development of some eye problems. Cataracts, dry eye syndrome, and chemo itchy eyes are some examples of eye problems resulting from cancer treatments.

Common Examinations for Eye Problems:

The following are common exams for eye problems that your eye doctor or healthcare provider may perform on you:

- Fluorescein or Rose Bengal staining: To perform this exam, your eye care professional or healthcare provider may put special eye drops into your eyes. Using a special light, they can see if there are any problems with the surface of your eyes. This may be done if eye problems include having eye pain, trauma, or a feeling of itchy eyes.
- Ophthalmoscopy: This is when your healthcare provider uses an ophthalmoscope, to look at the back of your eye. They can see the structures of the eye, such as the lens, retina, blood veins and vessels. Your healthcare practitioner may do this in the office, whenever you notice any eye problems.
- Pupil dilation: The pupil is widened with special eye drops, to allow your healthcare provider or eye care professional to look more closely at the back of your eye.
- Tonometry: This test is performed when the examiner wants to check the fluid pressures in the eye. It may be using a manual, hand-held device, or a more modern machine that blows a "puff" of air into your eye. Increased pressure in your eye may be a sign of glaucoma.
- Visual acuity test: Your eye examiner will use a chart to test how well you can see at different distances. This test may be performed when you are getting new glasses or contact lenses.

Common Eye Problems:

Includes: [Cataracts](#), [conjunctivitis \(pink eye\)](#), [dry eye syndrome](#), [glaucoma](#), [photophobia](#), and [watery eyes](#).

Below are a few resources if you are interested in learning more about other forms of eye-related illnesses.

Glaucoma Research Foundation

200 Pine Street, Suite 200

San Francisco, CA 94104

Web site: <http://www.glaucoma.org>

National Eye Institute

Information Office

2020 Vision Place

Bethesda, MD 20892-2510

301-496-5248

Web site: <http://www.nei.nih.gov>

Note: We strongly encourage you to talk with your health care professional about your specific medical condition and treatments. The information contained in this website about eye problems and other medical information is meant to be helpful and educational, but is not a substitute for medical advice.