

ANATOMY OF THE EYE

1. **Conjunctiva:**

- Mucous membranes that line the eyelid.
- Covers the eyeball and fuses with the eyelids, preventing foreign objects from getting behind the eye.

2. **Cornea:**

- Outer, front layer of the eye.
- Focuses incoming light by a fixed amount.

3. **Sclera:**

- Opaque; does not permit entry of light.
- Lines the border of the eye to ensure light enters only where intended.

4. **Iris (Coloured Part):**

- Composed of muscles that contract and relax.
- Determines pupil size and regulates how much light enters the eye.
- Optimizes the retina's ability to perceive images.

(Analogy: Camera Lens)

5. **Lens:**

- Composed of several transparent layers.
- Its shape changes to focus on objects at varying distances (near or far).
- This adjustment process is called **accommodation**.

6. **Light Pathway (after Lens):**

- Light passes through the lens, then crosses the **vitreous humor fluid** region.

7. Retina (Furthest Back):

- Location of photoreceptor cells.
- **Fovea:** The central region of the retina, containing **cone cells** (responsible for detailed color vision).
- **Periphery Retina:** The outer regions of the retina, containing **rod cells** (most sensitive to light, responsible for night vision).

8. Optic Disc:

- The point where blood vessels enter and leave the eye.
- Where the **optic nerve** exits the eye, carrying visual information to the brain.
- Contains **no photoreceptors**, creating a natural blind spot.

MOVEMENTS OF THE EYE

(*Why the Blind Spot is Not Noticed*)

- The eyes are suspended in bony sockets at the front of the skull, called **orbita**.
- **Six extraocular muscles** are attached to the **sclera** (the tough, outer white part of the eye)
- These muscles rotate and hold the eye in place.
- **Saccadic Eye Movements:** Rapid, jerky shift gaze from one point to another, which we are compelled to make.
- **Pursuit Movements:** Smooth eye movement that maintain focus on a moving object.
- Note: These constant movements, combined with brain processing, prevent us from noticing the natural blind spot created by the optic disc.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RETIN

• Visual Information Propagation:

- Visual information flows from **Photoreceptor cells** → **Bipolar cells** → **Retinal ganglion cells** → **Brain**.

(Mnemonic: PORB - Photoreceptor, Bipolar, Retinal Ganglion, Brain)

• Light Pathway Through Retinal Layers:

- When light enters the eye, it must pass through each of the cell layers in the retina before reaching the light-sensitive proteins in the photoreceptor cells.
- Therefore, light is detected only after traveling through these initial cell layers.