

Blurred vision

Blurred [vision](#) is a [visual disturbance](#) that causes images to appear unclear or out of focus. This can occur in one or both eyes and can be temporary or permanent, depending on the cause. Blurred vision can be caused by a variety of factors, including nearsightedness or farsightedness, cataracts, glaucoma, corneal abrasions, dry eyes, migraine headaches, and more serious conditions such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, and diabetes. If you are experiencing blurred vision, it is important to seek medical attention promptly, as early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent vision loss.

[Blurred vision in pituitary neuroendocrine tumor.](#)

Presbyopia—Difficulty focusing on objects that are close. Common in the elderly. (Accommodation tends to decrease with age.)

Cataracts—Cloudiness over the eye's lens, causing poor night-time vision, halos around lights, and sensitivity to glare. Daytime vision is eventually affected. Common in the elderly.

Glaucoma—Increased pressure in the eye, causing poor night vision, blind spots, and loss of vision to either side. A major cause of blindness. Glaucoma can happen gradually or suddenly—if sudden, it is a medical emergency.

Diabetes—Poorly controlled blood sugar can lead to temporary swelling of the lens of the eye, resulting in blurred vision. While it resolves if blood sugar control is reestablished, it is believed repeated occurrences promote the formation of cataracts (which are not temporary).

Diabetic retinopathy—This complication of diabetes can lead to bleeding into the retina. Another common cause of blindness.

Hypervitaminosis A—Excess consumption of vitamin A can cause blurred vision.[2]

Macular degeneration—Loss of central vision, blurred vision (especially while reading), distorted vision (like seeing wavy lines), and colors appearing faded. The most common cause of blindness in people over age 60.

Eye infection, inflammation, or injury.

Sjögren's syndrome, a chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease that destroys moisture producing glands, including lacrimal (tear)

Floaters—Tiny particles drifting across the eye. Although often brief and harmless, they may be a sign of retinal detachment.

Retinal detachment—Symptoms include floaters, flashes of light across your visual field, or a sensation of a shade or curtain hanging on one side of your visual field.

Optic neuritis—Inflammation of the optic nerve from infection or multiple sclerosis. You may have pain when you move your eye or touch it through the eyelid.

Stroke or transient ischemic attack

Brain tumor

Toxocara—A parasitic roundworm that can cause blurred vision

Bleeding into the eye

Temporal arteritis—Inflammation of an artery in the brain that supplies blood to the optic nerve.

Migraine headaches—Spots of light, halos, or zigzag patterns are common symptoms prior to the start of the headache. An ophthalmic migraine is when you have only visual symptoms without a headache.

Myopia Blurred vision may be a systemic sign of local anaesthetic toxicity

Reduced blinking—Lid closure that occurs too infrequently often leads to irregularities of the tear film due to prolonged evaporation, thus resulting in disruptions in visual perception.

Carbon monoxide poisoning—Reduced oxygen delivery can effect many areas of the body including vision.[3] Other symptoms caused by CO include vertigo, hallucination and sensitivity to light.

Case reports

Zhang L, Gu B, Tian Y, Pan M, Ji J. A 31-year-old man with recurrent blurred vision. Brain Pathol. 2023 Feb 6:e13144. doi: 10.1111/bpa.13144. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36745427.

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