

Ophthalmoplegia

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Ophthalmoparesis or ophthalmoplegia refers to [weakness](#) (-paresis) or [paralysis](#) (-plegia) of one or more [extraocular muscles](#) which are responsible for [eye movements](#). It is a physical finding in certain neurologic, ophthalmologic, and endocrine disease.

Ophthalmoparesis can involve any or all of the extraocular muscles, which include the superior recti, inferior recti, medial recti, lateral recti, inferior oblique and superior oblique muscles.

see [Painful ophthalmoplegia](#).

see [Painless ophthalmoplegia](#)

It can also be classified by the directions of affected movements, e.g. "vertical ophthalmoparesis".

Ophthalmoparesis can result from disorders of various parts of the eye and nervous system:

Infection around the eye. Ophthalmoplegia is an important finding in orbital cellulitis. The orbit of the eye, including mechanical restrictions of eye movement, as in Graves disease. The muscle, as in progressive external ophthalmoplegia or Kearns-Sayre syndrome. The neuromuscular junction, as in myasthenia gravis. The relevant cranial nerves (specifically the oculomotor, trochlear, and abducens), as in cavernous sinus syndrome or raised intracranial pressure. The brainstem nuclei of these nerves, as in certain patterns of brainstem stroke such as Foville's syndrome. White matter tracts connect these nuclei, as in internuclear ophthalmoplegia, an occasional finding in multiple sclerosis. Dorsal midbrain structures, as in Parinaud's syndrome. Certain parts of the cerebral cortex (including the frontal eye fields), as in stroke. Toxic envenomation by mambas, taipans, and kraits. Thiamine deficiency can cause ophthalmoparesis in susceptible persons; this is part of the syndrome called Wernicke encephalopathy. The causal pathway by which this occurs is unknown. Intoxication with certain substances, such as phenytoin, can also cause ophthalmoparesis.

Treatment and prognosis depend on the underlying condition. For example, in thiamine deficiency, treatment would be the immediate administration of vitamin B1.

see also [Autosomal dominant progressive external ophthalmoplegia](#)

Chronic Bilateral Ophthalmoplegia

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