

Visual Loss

Visual loss refers to a **partial or complete decrease in the ability to see**, affecting one or both eyes. It can occur **suddenly or progressively**, and may be **transient or permanent**, depending on the underlying cause.

Key Features

- Can be **monocular** (one eye) or **binocular** (both eyes)
- May involve **central**, **peripheral**, or **global** vision
- Origin may be **ocular**, **retinal**, **optic nerve**, or **central (cortical)**

Common Causes

Level	Example Conditions
Ocular	Cataract, glaucoma, corneal opacities
Retinal	Retinal detachment, diabetic retinopathy
Optic nerve	Optic neuritis, ischemic optic neuropathy
Central (brain)	Stroke, occipital lobe tumors, trauma

Clinical Classification

- **Sudden visual loss** → retinal artery occlusion, optic neuritis
- **Progressive visual loss** → glaucoma, compressive optic neuropathy
- **Transient visual loss (amaurosis fugax)** → may suggest vascular origin

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