

Hyperopia (Farsightedness)

To see, you use your eyes like a camera. Light enters through the cornea, the pupil and the transparent fluid in the front of the eye onto the lens, which bends the light so that what you're seeing focuses on the retina in the back of the eye. Working together, your retina, optic nerve and brain use these focused images to form your vision.

In those with hyperopia, the light entering your eye focuses behind the retina, instead of on it, which means you see things that are at a distance well, but things that are close up are blurred. This is also called farsightedness.

Hyperopia often becomes more noticeable around age 40. When you're younger, your eyes can adjust to accommodate the faulty focusing ability, but as the eye muscles gradually lose the strength and flexibility of youth, the farsightedness becomes more apparent.

Causes

If you have hyperopia, light entering your eye focuses behind the retina, instead of on it. This can happen if your cornea is flatter than normal, or if your eye is shorter than normal.

Symptoms

If you're farsighted, you'll have difficulty seeing up close, but you may also have blurred far distance vision. You may also notice more eye fatigue and strain from reading, which can be accompanied by headaches, a pulling sensation and burning. Children with hyperopia frequently have crossed eyes.

Treatment

A comprehensive eye examination will determine if you have hyperopia.

Our treatment recommendation will depend your age, activities and occupation. Glasses or contact lenses are most frequently required to correct vision for adult patients. A young person whose eyes are compensating well for their hyperopia may not need glasses or contacts.

For adults who don't want to wear glasses, there are several surgical options available, including refractive surgery such as LASIK, Clear Lens Extraction and Replacement, LTK and intraocular contact lenses.