

WHAT IS AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST?

There are 3 types of “O” doctors:

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Education: Undergraduate, 4 years of medical school and a 4 year residency in eye surgery

Occupation: Conduct eye surgeries and different procedures including lasers and eye injections; diagnoses eye diseases

OPTOMETRIST

Education: Undergraduate and 4 years in optometry school

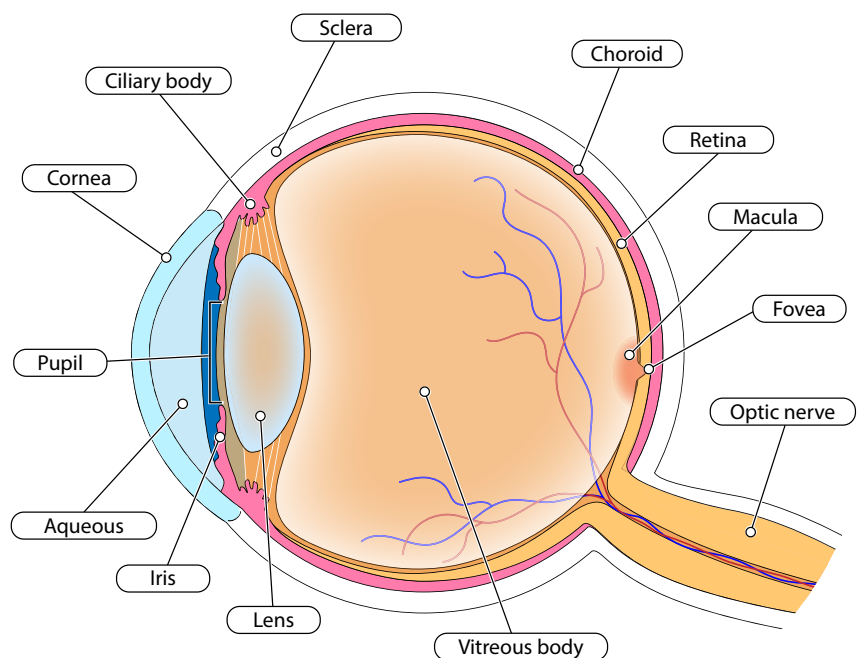
Occupation: Prescribe eye glasses and screen for eye disease

OPTICIANS

Education: 2-3 year optician diploma program

Occupation: Dispense eyeglasses

PARTS OF THE EYE



COMMON EYE DISEASES TREATED BY OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

RED EYE

Most red eyes are not concerning and are related to dryness, allergies or a mild viral infection (but can be highly contagious!).

A red eye that is associated with perilimbal flush (an intense injection of the white part of the eye immediately adjacent to the iris) is very concerning. It is often caused by a corneal infection, inflammation inside the eye or very high eye pressures - all of which can quickly cause blindness if left untreated.

ACUTE VISUAL LOSS

Acute visual loss is a rapid loss in the ability to see. It is caused by many ocular conditions like retinal detachment, macular degeneration and giant cell arteritis.

CHRONIC VISUAL LOSS

Chronic visual loss can be age-related or secondary to an underlying pathological process. Chronic open-angle glaucoma is one serious cause of chronic visual loss that, if missed, can lead to permanent vision loss.