

what is LOW VISION?

WHO DOES LOW VISION AFFECT?



Low vision is a visual impairment that cannot be corrected with **eyeglasses, contact lenses, pharmaceuticals, or surgery.**

Millions of people in the U.S. suffer from low vision and most everyone knows someone—an aging relative or friend—who struggles to see like he or she used to. It is most common in people aged 60+ and many people try to cover up their vision loss because they think it will lead to a loss of independence.



WHAT DOES LOW VISION DO?

Individuals, their family and friends should take notice when any vision loss begins to interfere with activities of daily living (ADLs)—cooking, driving, reading, or recognizing faces. **Low vision is often related to aging eye diseases, including:**

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY



GLAUCOMA



RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA



AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION



Simulations of sight affected by one of these diseases.

Low vision is different from presbyopia, which is the decreased ability to focus on near objects once you are 40+.

Signs of low vision include:

Areas of blurred or distorted vision or spots and blotches in your vision



Shadowed or darkened field of view or noticeable loss of peripheral vision



A gradual loss of central vision



Cloudy and blurred vision or exaggerated "halos" around bright lights



Blind spots in your field of view



Talk to an eye care provider or visit www.whatislowvision.org to learn more about low vision and find helpful resources.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT LOW VISION?

Catching the symptoms of low vision early may help sight be preserved and in some cases, lessen the advance of low vision.

Though lost vision cannot be restored, a combination of vision rehabilitation and the use of low vision devices can return something almost as important — independence and an increased quality of life. The key is working in tandem with a low vision specialist eye care provider.

Low vision devices from a low vision specialist include:



Magnifiers



Specialty Eyewear



Mini-telescopes mounted on eyewear

Closed-circuit TV (also called video magnifiers)

