



Vision

Did you know that medicine can affect your eyes?



Most of us know that overall health and the health of our eyes are related. Did you know that medicine for other medical problems can have side effects involving the eyes? These can range from irritated, dry eyes to blindness. Talk to your eye doctor about eye related side effects. This is an important part of managing your medicines. Here are some eye-related side effects that can result from the most often used medicines:

Medicine	What is it for?	Eye side effects
Anti-inflammatory <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cortisone• Prednisone	Arthritis, joint pain, asthma, allergies	Cataracts (cloudy vision), Glaucoma (pressure in the eye which can cause blindness if untreated)
Antihistamines <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claritin (loratadine)• Zyrtec (cetirazin)• Benadryl (diphenhydramine)	Allergies	Dry eyes, blurred vision
Oral Contraceptives	Birth control, acne, hormone regulation	Blurred vision
Retinoids <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accutane (isotretinoin)	Acne	Dry eyes, light sensitivity, redness, blurred vision
Anti-depressants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prozac (fluoxetine Hcl)	Depression	Blurred vision, light sensitivity

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Diuretics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lasix (furosemide) Hydrodiuril (HCTZ) 	Heart disease, kidney disease	Dry eyes, light sensitivity, blurred vision
Anti-anxiety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xanax (alprazolam) Valium (diazepam) Ativan (lorazepam) 	Anxiety	Double vision
Anti-hypertensives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenormen Lopressor (metoprolol tartrate) Inderal (propranolol) 	High blood pressure	Dry eyes, light sensitivity
Niacin (Vitamin B3)	High cholesterol, Vitamin B deficiency	Blurred, distorted vision
Ritalin (methylphenidate Hcl)	Attention disorders	Blurred vision, dilated pupils
Scopolamine Patch	Motion sickness	Blurred vision, dilated pupils
Plaquenil (hydroxychloroquine)	Arthritis, Lupus	Blurred vision, poor color vision, blind spots in field of view
Herbal supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ginkgo biloba St John's wort Valerian root 	Bleeding inside and on the white of the eye Light sensitivity Blurred vision

This list does not include all of the medicines that can cause eye problems. If you take any of the medications listed, it is important to have comprehensive eye exams. Make sure your eye doctor knows what medicine you take. This will help them watch for any changes in your eyes that could be related to your medicine. If your eye doctor finds problems in your vision or eye health, she can talk to your medical doctor. Your doctors can adjust or change your medicines to work without side effects for your eyes. This is one more way that a comprehensive eye exam can be a part of your eye health and your overall health.



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