Refractive Error - Hyperopia

The Following Information has been Prepared for You:

When light enters the eye, it must come to focus on the retina to provide sharp vision. However, various eye shapes can cause the light to be out of focus. Your optometrist can determine how much to bend the light using glasses or contact lenses to refocus the light on the retina. The process of bending the light is called "refraction." The magnitude of the bent light is called the "refractive error." While glasses and contact lenses can bend the light, they do not offer a permanent solution. Your eye's shape will not change when wearing glasses or contacts. Therefore, if you have a refractive error, removing the glasses or contacts will cause your vision to return to a blurry state. Refractive surgery (aka LASIK, PRK, or RK), corneal ring implants, and intraocular lens implants can permanently change the shape of the eye, and the way the light focuses through it and offer long-term vision correction without the use of glasses or contact lenses.

Refractive error is largely inherited. However, environmental factors, health conditions, medications, injury, surgery, and the aging process can cause a person's refractive error to change over their lifetime.

Hypermetropia (aka Hyperopia & Farsightedness) is caused by light that comes to focus behind the retina. Patients with hypermetropia typically have small or short eyeballs as measured from the front to the back. Infants are typically born hyperopic. Your lens has the ability to change shape and bring the light rays closer to the retina to obtain sharp vision. However, sometimes, the degree of hyperopia is too much for the lens to handle. Some patients may have weak muscle control of their lens and cannot accommodate the amount of work required. The muscles tend to get weaker with age and many patients start to require glasses in their 40's to see sharply. Uncompensated hyperopia can cause blurred vision, fluctuating vision, eye fatigue, light sensitivity, headache around the eyes or forehead, crossed eyes (especially in children), loss of depth perception or hand-eye coordination, watery eyes and red eyes. In order to bring hyperopic eyes into focus, your optometrist uses convex, or "positive" power lenses.

Please make time to have a complete eye and vision examination annually.

Contact our office with any significant vision changes or emergencies that you feel require immediate attention.

Please Rate the Information You Received

	☐ Very helpful - all questions are answered ☐ Somewhat helpful - I still have questions ☐ Not helpful – none of my questions were answered
Comments / Questions / Typos:	

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