



How well **do** you see?

About Hyperopia, also known as Farsightedness

What is farsightedness?

Farsightedness is also known as hyperopia. It is a refractive error in which distant objects are clearly seen, but close objects appear blurry.¹ People experience farsightedness differently, and some people, more commonly when they are young, do not notice any problems with their vision.² In addition, for people with significant farsightedness, vision can be blurry for objects at any distance, near or far.³

What causes farsightedness?

The eye relies on two critical parts to focus on an image: the cornea, which is the clear front surface of the eye, and the crystalline lens, a clear structure inside the eye that changes shape in order to focus on objects.³

In an eye without refractive error, these focusing elements have a smooth curvature, much like the surface of a smooth rubber ball, and bends incoming light to make a sharply focused image on the retina.³ If the cornea is not smoothly curved, like in the case of people with farsightedness, the light does not properly bend, or refract light properly, and this results in a refractive error.³ Farsightedness occurs when light entering into the eye focuses behind or beyond the retina, instead of on it.³

Both children and adults can be affected by farsightedness and it can even be hereditary. People whose parents are farsighted may likely to also have the condition.² An eye care professional (ECP) can diagnose farsightedness during a routine eye exam. Generally, at-school vision screenings are not effective in detecting farsightedness.¹

What are symptoms of farsightedness?

Symptoms include:

- Blurred vision at night or later in the day⁴
- Trouble focusing on near objects⁴
- Aching eyes, eyestrain and headaches⁴
- Squinting²
- Difficulty maintaining a clear focus¹
- Eye fatigue¹
- Irritability or nervousness after sustained concentration¹



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How well *do* you see?

How is it corrected?

Farsightedness can be corrected with eye glasses, contact lenses or refractive surgery.³ Patients should discuss all options with their ECP to determine what's most appropriate based on their eyes and lifestyle.³

1. American Optometric Association, Hyperopia (Farsightedness). <http://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/eye-and-vision-problems/glossary-of-eye-and-vision-conditions/hyperopia?sso=y> [Accessed June 27, 2014]
2. National Eye Institute, What is farsightedness? <http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeyes/hyperopia.asp> [Accessed June 27, 2014]
3. EyeSmart, Farsightedness: What is Hyperopia? <http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/hyperopia-farsightedness/> [Accessed June 27, 2014]
4. WebMD, Farsightedness (Hyperopia) – Topic Overview. <http://www.webmd.com/eye-health/tc/farsightedness-hyperopia-topic-overview> [Accessed June 27, 2014]



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