



**Medical
Blueprints**

EYE DROPS TO IMPROVE VISION? REPORT #2906

BACKGROUND: A normal part of aging is when your eyes gradually lose the ability to see things clearly up close. This is known as presbyopia. The term comes from a Greek word meaning “old eye.” Presbyopia is usually noticed shortly after age 40. When you are young, the eye lens is soft and flexible, easily changing shape which lets you focus on objects both close-up and far away. After age 40, the lens becomes more rigid and cannot change shape as easily making it harder to read, thread a needle, or do other close-up tasks. There is no way to halt or reverse the normal aging process that causes presbyopia. However, it can be corrected with eyeglasses, contact lenses or surgery. People who have trouble seeing both near and far may benefit from progressive lenses. If you do not correct presbyopia, you may be bothered by headaches and eye strain.
(Source: <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-presbyopia>)

SYMPTOMS AND RISKS: The most common symptoms of presbyopia are a gradual deterioration in the ability to read or do work up close; having difficulty reading small print; having fatigue from doing close work; needing brighter lighting when reading or doing close work; needing to hold reading material at an arm’s distance to focus properly on it; problems seeing and focusing on objects that are close to you; and squinting. Hyperopia, or farsightedness, is a condition that has symptoms like presbyopia. However, they’re two different disorders. In both conditions, distant objects are clear, but closer objects appear blurry. Hyperopia is a refractive error that’s present at birth. It is possible to have hyperopia and then develop presbyopia with age. If you notice the symptoms of presbyopia at an age earlier than the normal onset, it may be a sign of an underlying medical condition. Some higher risk symptoms are anemia; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; multiple sclerosis; myasthenia gravis; eye trauma or disease; and vascular insufficiency, or poor blood flow.
(Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health/presbyopia#causes>)

NEW CORRECTING-DROPS FOR PRESBYOPIA: New presbyopia-correcting drops may help treat the more than 128 million Americans with presbyopia. George O. Waring, IV, MD, founder and medical director, Waring Vision Institute in South Carolina says, “We are on the doorstep now of having topical drops, of which there are multiple in the developmental pipeline with varying mechanisms of action [MOA], for the treatment of presbyopia.” The two main MOAs being investigated are miotics, which leverage the pinhole effect to increase the depth of field, and lens softening, based on the assumption that lens stiffening and loss of flexibility are presbyopia’s main causes. Other considerations include the time to onset of action, duration of effect and the use of preservatives. Allergan submitted AGN-190584 to the FDA based on data from two Phase 3 studies evaluating efficacy, safety and tolerability of its proprietary formulation of pilocarpine 1.25%. “The docket has been submitted, and, if approved, this would be the first to market topical therapy for the treatment of presbyopia in the United States,” says Dr. Waring.
(Source: <https://www.opthalmologymanagement.com/issues/2021/july-2021/presbyopia-correcting-drops-the-next-frontier>)

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