

# Diplopia (Double Vision)

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This material will help you understand diplopia and how it is treated.

## **What is diplopia?**

Diplopia is the medical term for double vision. If you have diplopia, you see two objects when you are only looking at one. This is different from blurred vision. People with blurred vision see one image that seems unclear.

## **What causes diplopia?**

In some cases, diplopia is caused by a problem in how the eye bends light. Because of this problem, your eye may be splitting the light from one object into two images. Cataracts can sometimes cause this to happen.

Diplopia may also result from both eyes being unable to point at an object. This is called ocular misalignment. Normally, both eyes look at the same object. The images seen by both eyes are fused into a single picture by the brain. If your eyes do not point at the same object, the image seen by each eye is different and cannot be combined. This results in double vision.

## **How is diplopia diagnosed?**

Your eye doctor can diagnose diplopia after doing a complete exam of your eyes. As part of this exam, your eye doctor asks you about your medical history. The doctor also checks your vision, eye movements, and eye alignment. In some cases, your doctor may have you do additional tests like a CT, MRI scan or blood test.

## **How is diplopia treated?**

Your doctor will recommend treatment depending on what is causing your double vision. Some common treatments include patching, prisms, eye exercises, or a combination of these options. Your doctor may also suggest surgical straightening of your eyes.

**For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/diplopia.html>

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