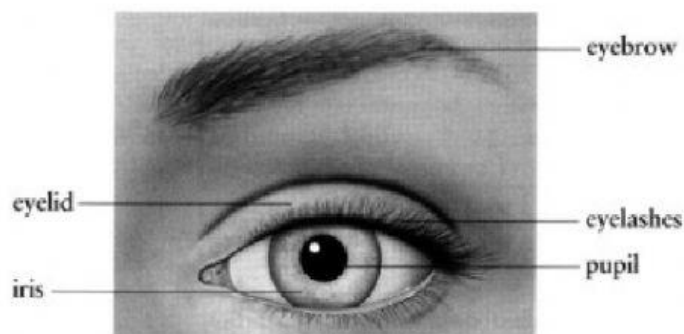


19 The eye

A Parts of the eye



B Examination of the eye

Here is an extract from a textbook description of how to examine the eye.

Look for **squint** (strabismus), **drooping** of the upper lid (ptosis) or **oscillation** of the eyes (nystagmus). In **lid lag**, the upper eyelid moves irregularly instead of smoothly when the patient is asked to look down.

Next, examine the **pupils** and note whether:

- they are **equal** in size
- they are **regular in outline** (evenly circular)
- they are abnormally **dilated** (large) or **constricted** (small)
- they **react** normally to light and **accommodation** (focus on near objects).

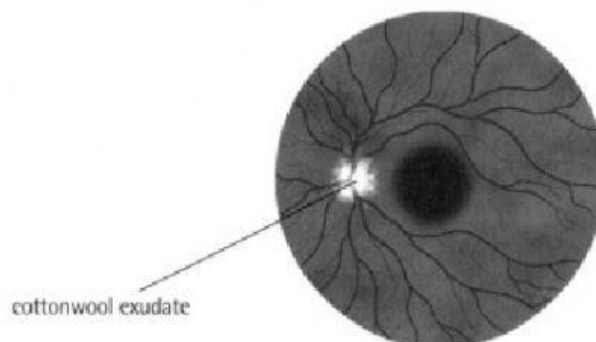
To test the reaction to accommodation, ask the patient to look into the distance. Hold your finger in front of their nose, and ask the patient to look at it. The eyes should come together, or **converge**, and the pupils should **constrict** as the patient looks at the finger.

Check also for **cataract** (opacity of the lens).

C Retinopathy

Hypertensive changes in the retina can be classified from grades 1 to 4:

- grade 1 – **silver wiring** (increase in the light reflex) of the arteries only
- grade 2 – grade 1 plus arteriovenous **nipping** (indentation of veins where they are crossed by arteries)
- grade 3 – grade 2 plus **flame-shaped haemorrhages** and cottonwool exudates
- grade 4 – grade 3 plus papilloedema.



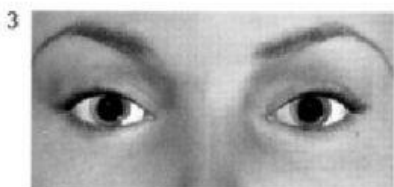
19.1 Complete the table with words from B opposite and related forms.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
accommodate		
	constriction	
	convergence	
	dilation, dilatation	
droop		
oscillate		
react		

19.2 Match the pictures (1–6) with the conditions (a–f). Look at B opposite to help you.



- a drooping of lids
- b dilated pupils
- c irregular pupil
- d cataract
- e squint
- f constricted pupils



19.3 Complete the extract from a textbook. Look at C opposite to help you.

Retinoscopy

Examine the retina with an ophthalmoscope, if possible with the (1) dilated to obtain the maximum view. Look for papilloedema, and for (2) haemorrhages and (3) exudates. Assess the state of the (4) and note the presence of any narrowing, as well as (5) at arteriovenous crossings.

Over to you

Traditionally, eyesight problems are corrected with spectacles or contact lenses. In recent years, laser therapy has become a popular alternative. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this technique?