

What is an Ophthalmologist ?

Ophthalmology Subspecialists: additional knowledge and training for specific eye needs While ophthalmologists are trained to care for all eye problems and conditions, some ophthalmologists specialize further in a specific area of medical or surgical eye care. This person is called a subspecialist. He or she usually completes one or two years of additional, more in-depth training (called a Fellowship) in one of the main subspecialty areas such as:

- Glaucoma
- Retina
- Cornea
- Pediatrics
- Neurology
- Oculo-Plastic Surgery or others.

This added training and knowledge prepares an ophthalmologist to take care of more complex or specific conditions in certain areas of the eye or in certain groups of patients.³

For more information contact:
The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
www.connecticutsocietyofeyephysicians.com





Know your
health provider's credentials.

Ophthalmologist ~ Eye Surgeon ~ Eye M.D.

An ophthalmologist is a medical or osteopathic doctor who specializes in eye and vision care. Ophthalmologists complete 12 to 13 years of training and education, and are licensed to practice medicine and surgery. This advanced training allows ophthalmologists to diagnose and treat a wider range of conditions than optometrists and opticians. Typical training includes a four-year college degree followed by at least eight years of additional medical training.

An ophthalmologist diagnoses and treats all eye diseases, performs eye surgery and prescribes and fits eyeglasses and contact lenses to correct vision problems. Many ophthalmologists are also involved in scientific research on the causes and cures for eye diseases and vision disorders. Because they are medical doctors, ophthalmologists can sometimes recognize other health problems that aren't directly related to the eye, and refer those patients to the right medical doctors for treatment.¹

An Ophthalmologist's Hours of Training

Ophthalmology: It is estimated that at least 17,280 of the total hours that ophthalmologists spend in medical school, internship, and residency are spent in gaining clinical experience and taking care of the patients who enter hospitals, tertiary care centers and academic medical centers. This is based on an estimate of an average of 60 hours per week (including on-call duty, the maximum duty hours for residents is 80 hours per week) multiplied by 48 weeks and by 6 years. During training, the ACGME requires that ophthalmologists manage a minimum of 3,000 out-patient visits with a broad range of disease presentation, and that they assist at and then personally perform under supervision a specified minimum number of various surgical procedures. There are also requirements for systemic disease consultation during residency training.²

^{1,3} <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/what-is-ophthalmologist>

² <https://www.aao.org/about/policies/differences-education-optometrists-ophthalmologists>