

## Ocular Side Effects to Commonly Used Systemic Drugs & Supplements

Please note that some of these side effects are more common than others. This is by no means a complete list. It is always best to know exactly which drugs your patient is taking and to look up side effects in a compendium or on the Internet. You are not required to memorize this list.

Purpose of Drug	Potential Side Effect
<b>Anti-depressants &amp; Anti-psychotics</b>	
Anti-depressants	Dry eye, conjunctivitis, eyelid changes (edema, ptosis, colour), eye movements in sleep, abnormal accommodation
Anti-anxiety	Dry eye, decreased corneal sensitivity, conjunctivitis, decreased accommodation, diplopia
Schizophrenia	Dry eye, decreased vision, accommodative problems, changes of colour vision, corneal & lens changes, pupil abnormalities, field loss, visual hallucinations, eye muscle problems
Obsessive compulsive disorder	Eye pain, conjunctivitis, accommodative problems
<b>Anti-hypertensives</b>	
Beta blockers	Dry eye, glaucoma exacerbation
Calcium channel blockers	Vasodilatation causing red eyes and possible subconjunctival or retinal hemorrhages, decreased vision, conjunctivitis, photosensitivity
ACE inhibitors	Lid edema or discoloration, conjunctivitis, photosensitivity, retinal hemorrhages
Diuretics	Dry eye

Cholesterol & Triglyceride Drugs	
Anti-cholesterols	Dry skin, blurred vision, increased IOP
Niacin	Macular edema, skin discoloration, loss of lashes
Heart Medications	
Arrhythmia	Corneal changes, lens changes, optic nerve changes, blurred vision, colour vision changes, halos, photophobia, eyelash loss, conjunctival discoloration
Angina	Decreased vision, photosensitivity, visual hallucinations, hols, increased lacrimation, conjunctival chemosis, retinal hemorrhages
Digitalis	Blue-yellow colour defects, scotomas
Anti-coagulants	Subconjunctival hemorrhages, retinal hemorrhages
Rheumatoid Arthritis	
Cortico-steroids	Posterior pole cataract, increased IOP, pupil dilation, papilledema, angle closure exacerbation
Chloroquine	Changes in colour vision, vision changes related to maculopathy
Miscellaneous Drugs	
Acne	Dry eye, myopic shifts, decreased vision, night vision problems, optic neuritis, retinal hemorrhages
Anti-asthma	Visual hallucinations, mydriasis, decreased vision
Anti-convulsants	Nystagmus, diplopia, macular edema, field loss, increased IOP

Anti-histamines	Dry eye, eye pain, conjunctivitis, pupil changes, angles closure exacerbation, blepharospasm, decreased accommodations with long-term use, blurred vision
Bone density	Inflammation in the eye (scleritis), uveitis
Cancer	Dry eyes. Tamoxifen: macular deposits, decreased vision, colour vision changes, central distortion of vision.
Erectile dysfunction	Blue colour to vision, light sensitivity, halos, anterior ischemic neuropathy, field loss, blurred vision, retinal hemorrhages, 3 <sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy, macular detachment, branch retinal artery occlusion
Estrogen replacement	Dry eye, increased corneal curvature
Muscle relaxants for Parkinson's	Mydriasis, decreased vision, accommodative changes, diplopia, hemorrhages
Musculoskeletal drugs	(For arthritis, muscle strains, injuries) blurred vision, corneal toxicity, optic neuritis, pseudotumor cerebri
Narcotics	Blurred vision, miosis, dizziness, drowsiness
NSAIDs	Dry eyes, blurred vision
Oral contraceptives	Dry eye, corneal curvature changes
Thyroid replacement	Dry eye, pseudotumour cerebri in children
Ulcer	Visual hallucinations, vertigo
Weight loss	When using drugs that affect fat metabolism, increased risk of macular degeneration

Herbs & Supplements	
Canthaxanthine	Retinal deposits and associated vision changes
Echinacea	Eye pain, conjunctivitis
Gingko biloba	Hemorrhages
Jimson weed	Mydriasis
Licorice	Transient vision loss
Niacin	Macular edema, skin discoloration, loss of lashes