

Ophthalmology

Eye and aging

Dr Anouk GEORGES

Pr RAKIC

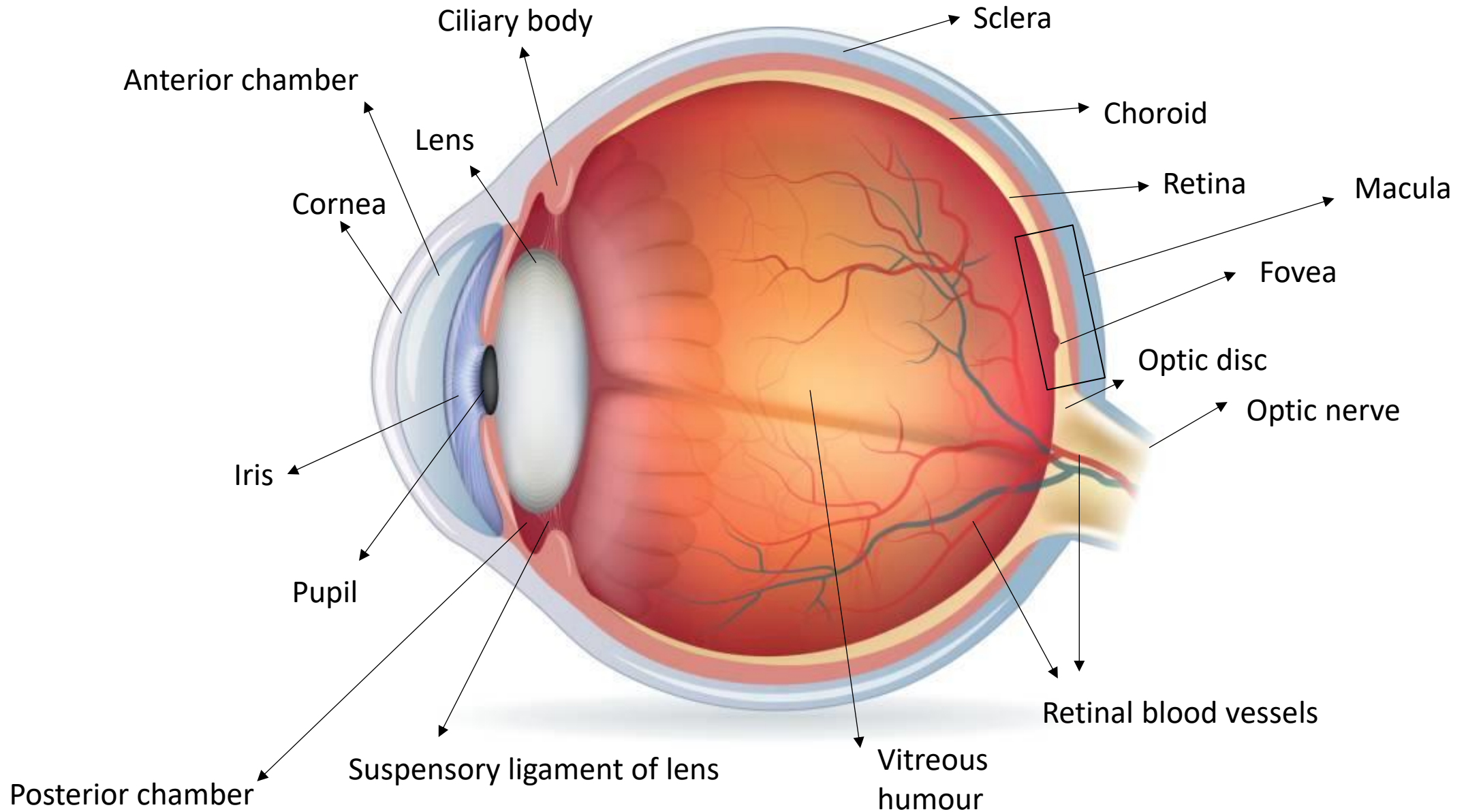
CHU Liège

24/01/2025

Anatomy of the Eye

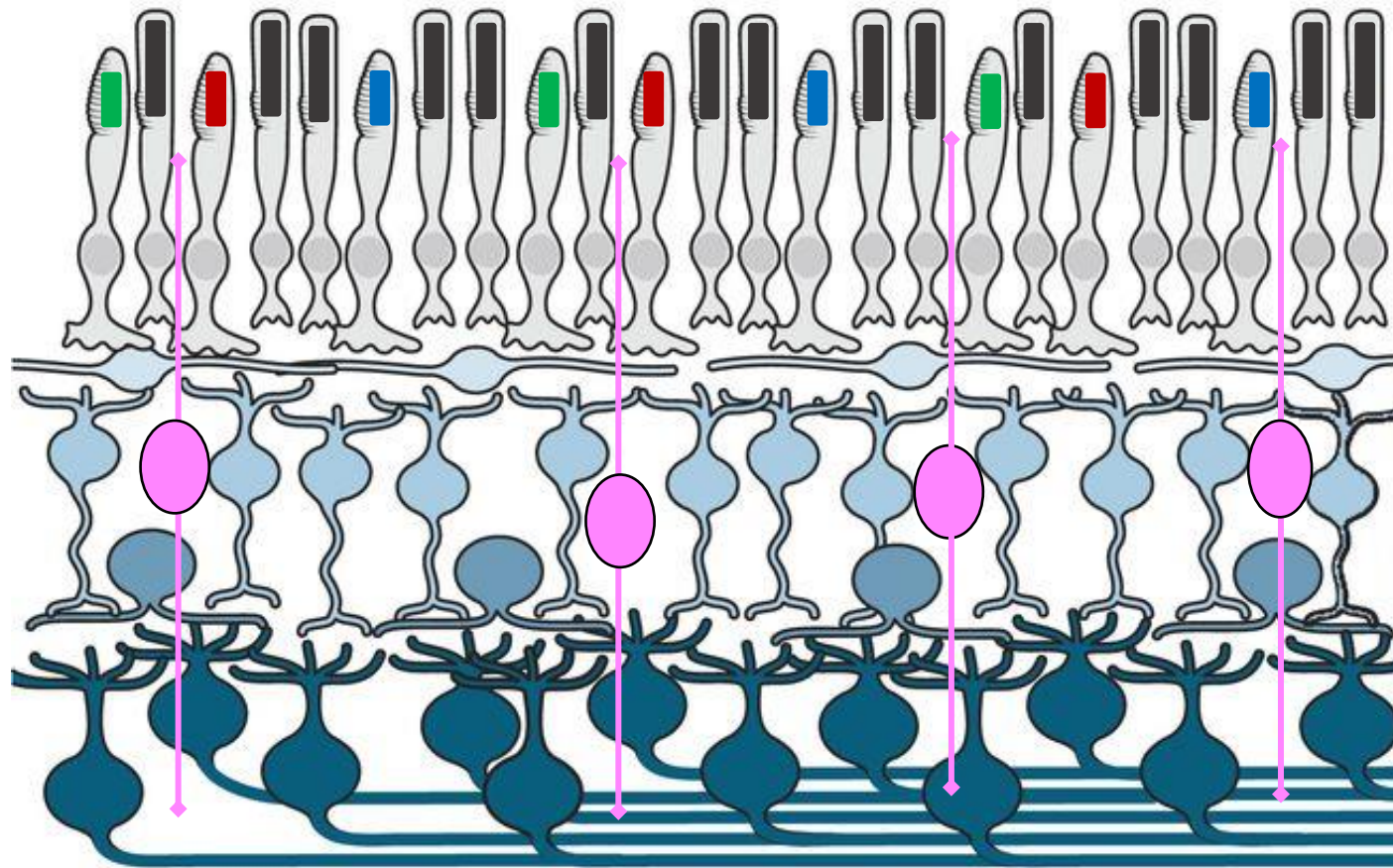
- Structure
- Function

Eyeball

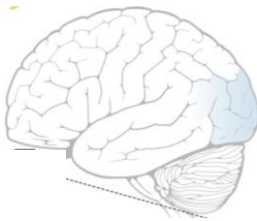


Retina

- Photoreceptors
- Horizontal cells
- Bipolar cells
- Amacrine cells
- Retinal ganglion cells
- Müller Glia



Retinal Pigmented Epithelium



Objectives of good care

Young population

- Vision 10/10
- Normal IOP
- Good Visual Field
- Vision without glasses

Geriatric population

- Independence
- Quality of life
- Romberg
- Sociability

Ophthalmic geriatric consultation

- Evaluate visual function
- Detect ocular problems
- Consider the context
- Provide solutions

Visual performance

Psychosensory tests

- Visual acuity decrease
- Visual field loss
- Color perception decrease
- Loss of contrast
- Nyctalopia

Neurological deficits

- Understanding
- Expression
- Confusion
- Contact

Ocular diseases in elderly patients

- Extraocular structures:

- Eyelids
 - > Blepharochalasis
 - > Entropion
 - > Ectropion
- Lacrymal gland
 - > Dry Eye

- Eyeball:

- Anterior structures (cornea, lens)
 - > Cataract
 - > Corneal decompensation
 - > Keratitis
- Posterior structures (retina, optic nerve)
 - > Age-related-macular disease (AMD)
 - > Diabetic retinopathy
 - > Ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION)
 - > Horton arteritis (AAION)
 - > Glaucoma (chronic and acute)

Blepharochalasis



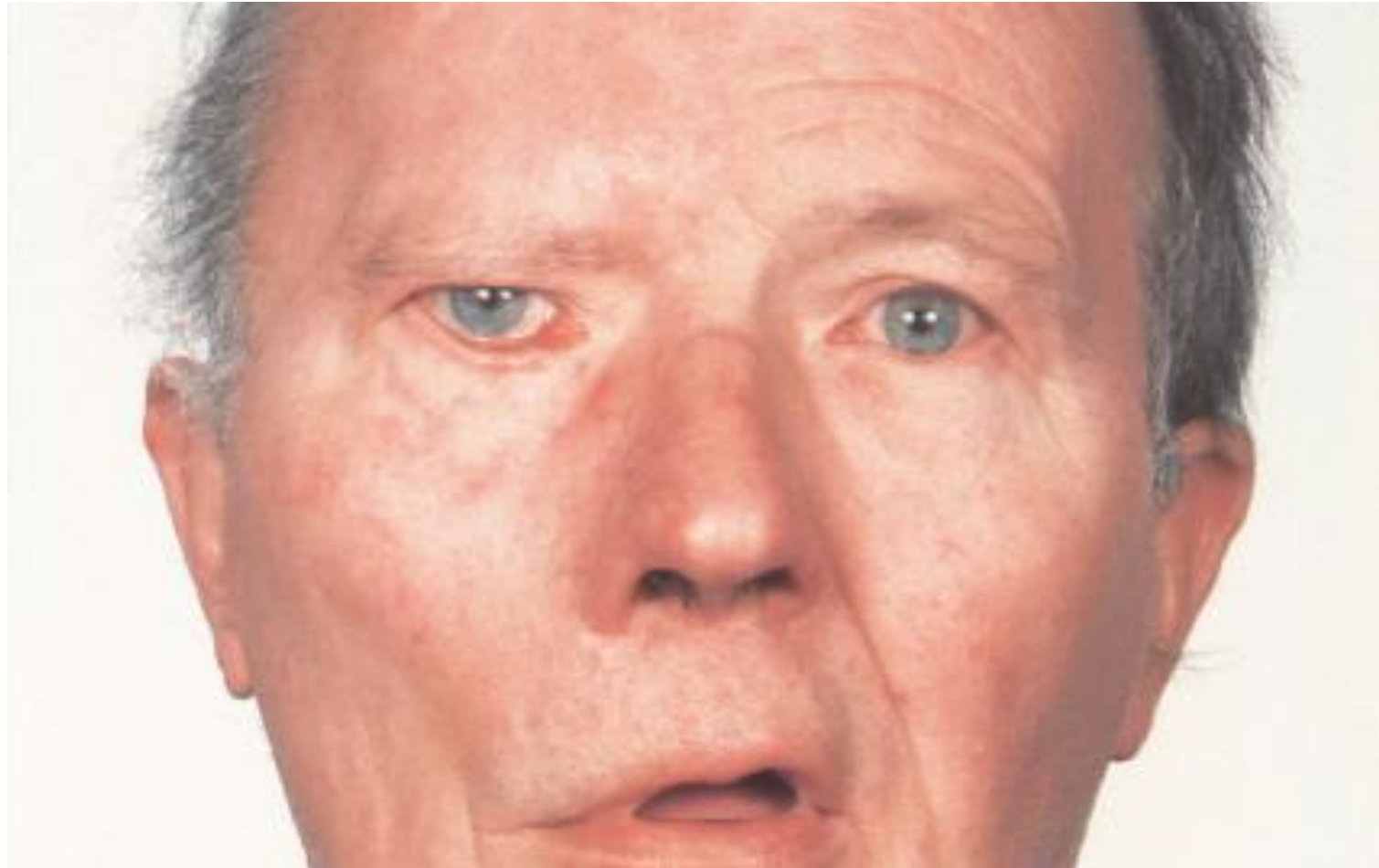
Entropion



Ectropion



Paralytic ectropion



Infectious Keratitis

- Bacterial
- Viral (HSV)
- Fungal
- Acanthamoeba

Infectious Keratitis

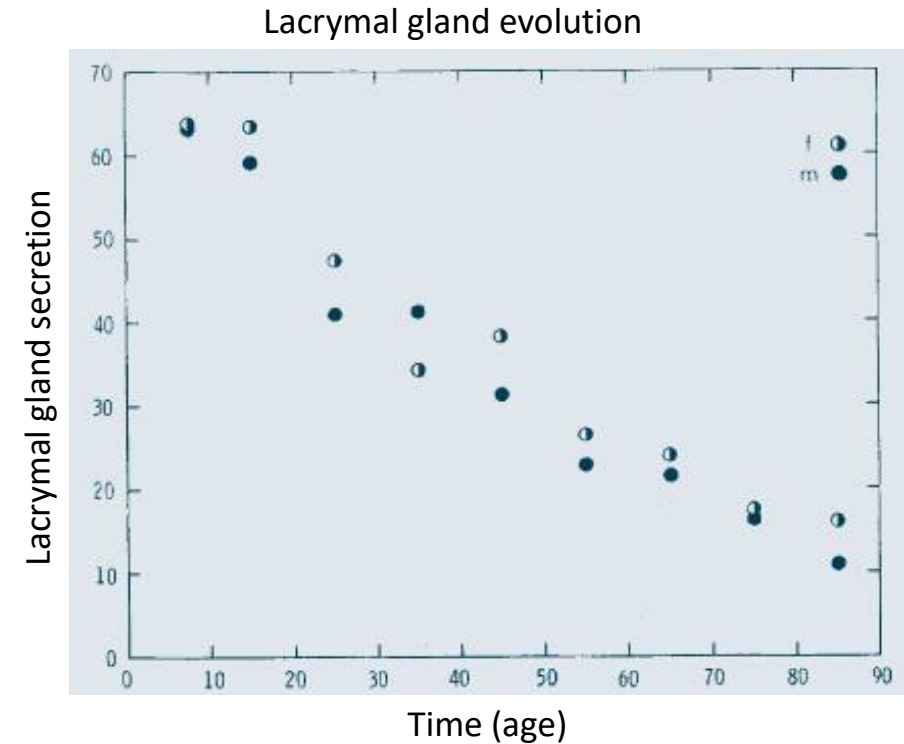
Risk factors

- Cataract wound and suture-stitch (12 o'clock)
- Epithelial defect
 - Contact lenses
 - Dry eye
 - Neurotrophic keratitis (= damage of the afferent pathway (trigeminal nerve) of the “corneal blink reflex”)
 - Corneal decompensation
 - Lagophthalmic eye
 - Lagophthalmos
 - Trichiasis
- Decrease immunity
 - Systemic factors
 - Cancer/oncologic treatments
 - Local use of corticosteroids

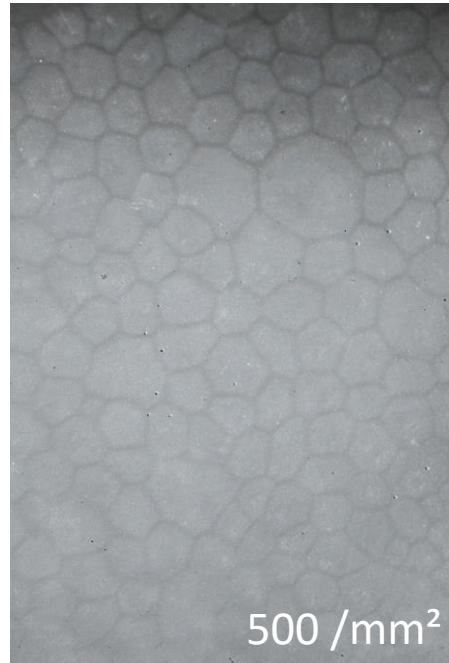
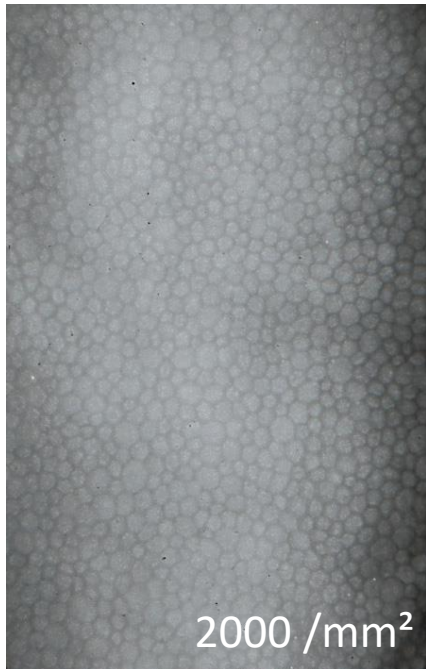
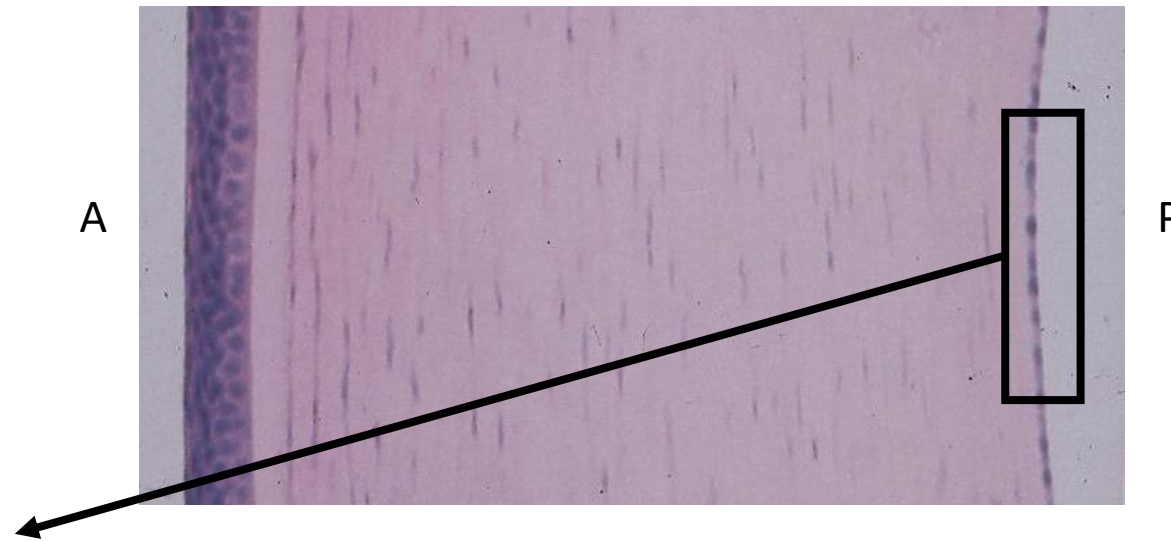
Dry Eye

>>> Decrease of tear production from lacrymal gland

- Age-related involution
- Sjogren
- Corneal hypoesthesia (trigeminal nerve damage, HZV, diabetes)
- Anticholinergic AEs of many drugs (sedatives, neuroleptics, H1 antiH)

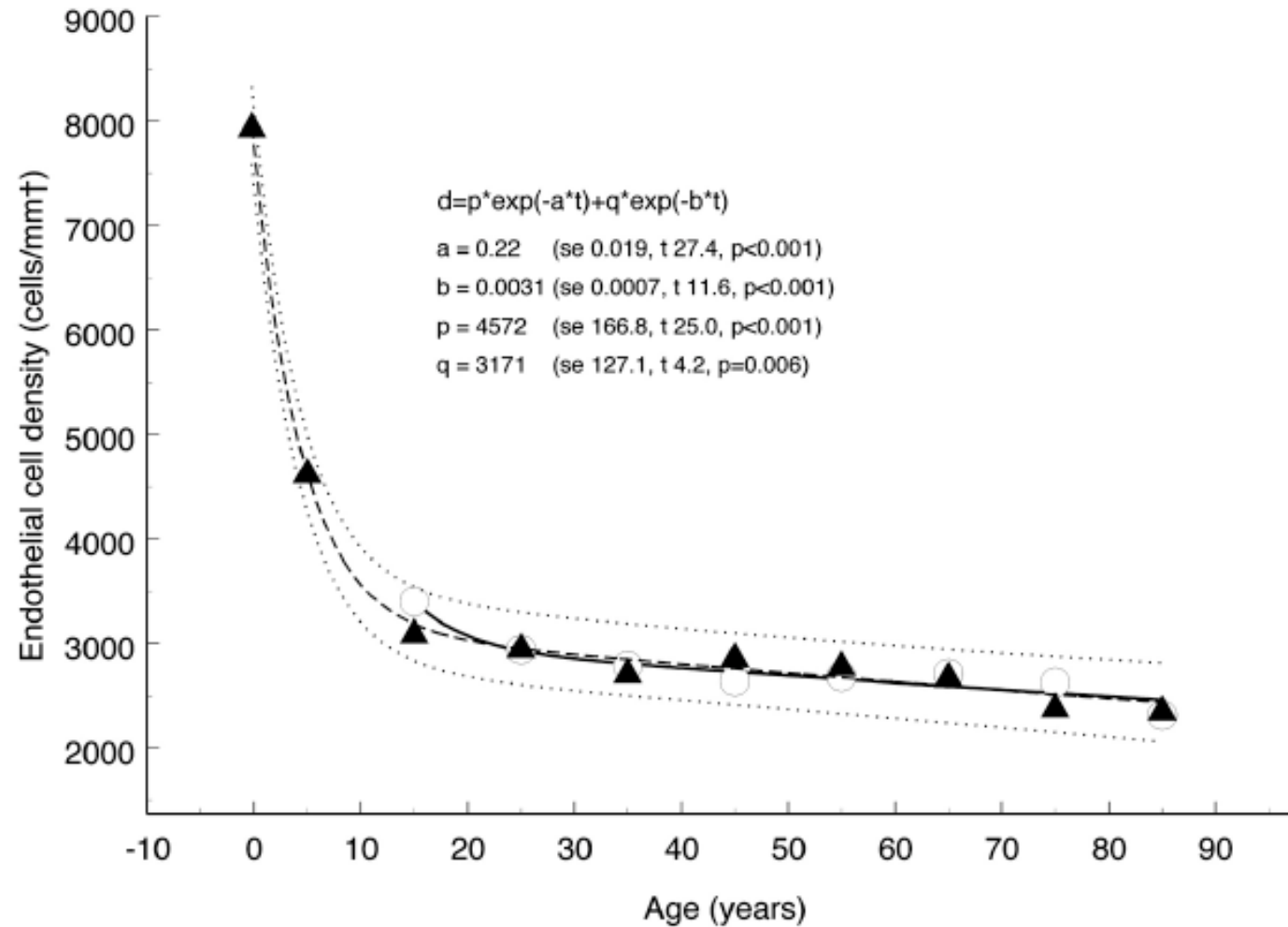


Histology of the Cornea

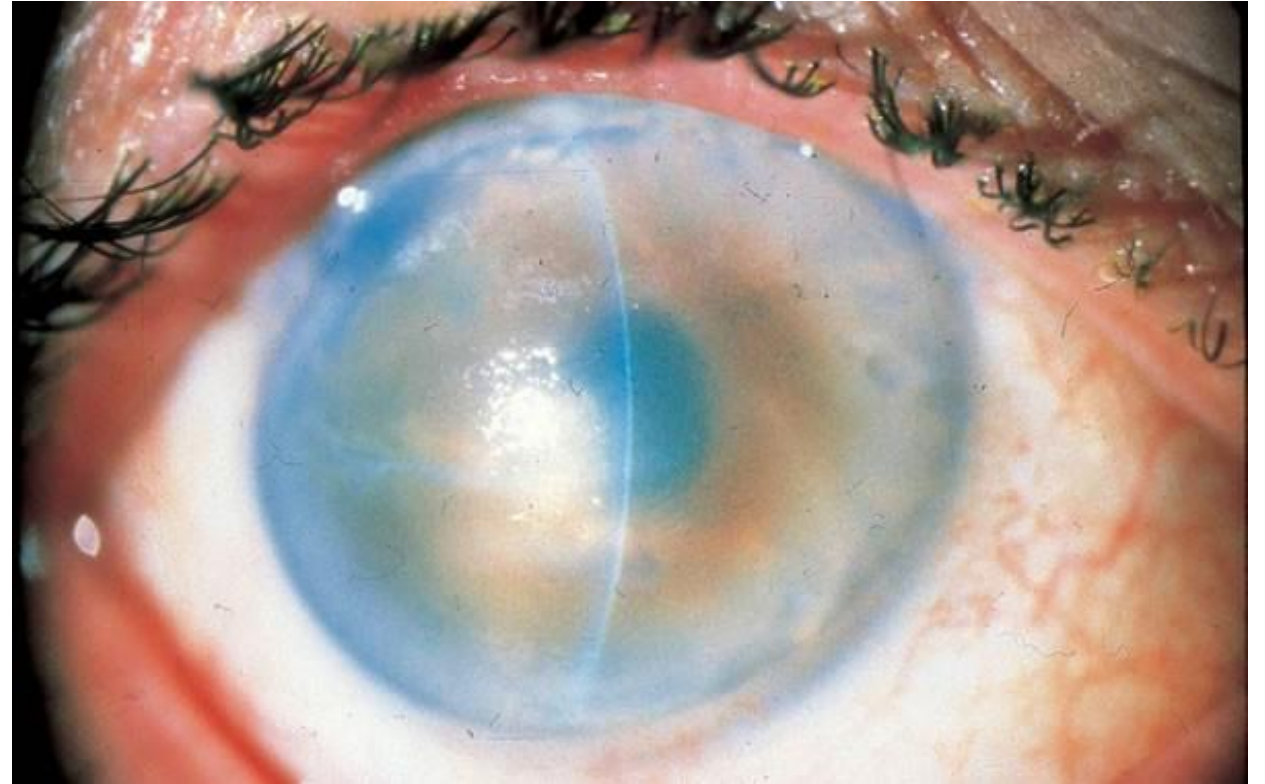


>>> *In vivo* evaluation of cell density by specular microscopy

Decrease of cell count with age



Corneal decompensation

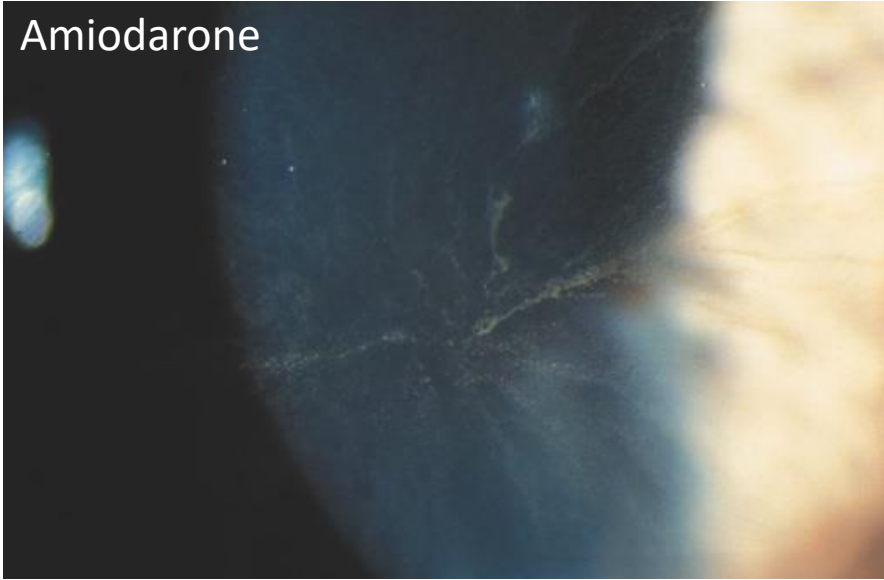


Corneal decompensation Mechanisms

- Age related involution
- Genetic (oligogenic) > Cornea Guttata
- Complicated cataract surgery
- Acute Glaucoma

Corneal deposits

Amiodarone



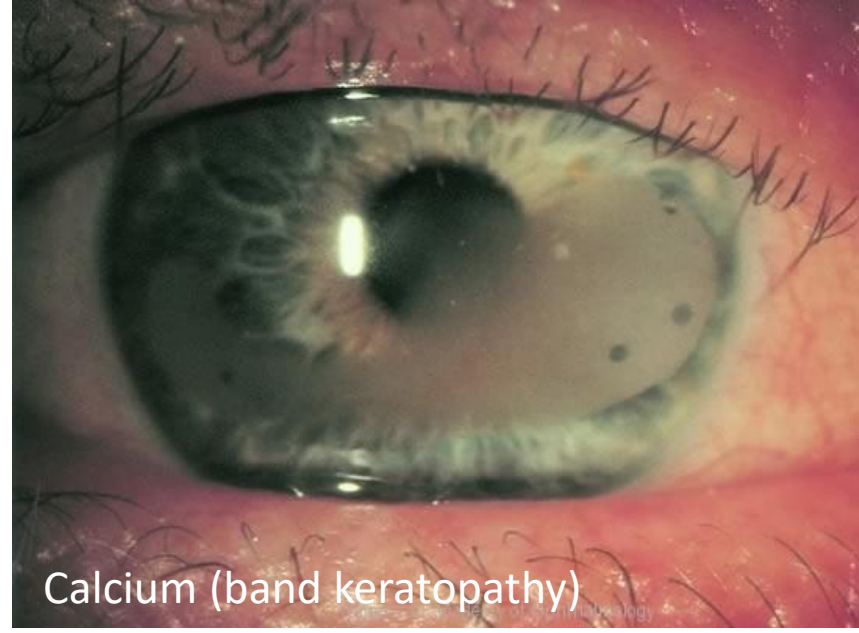
Cholesterol (gerotoxon)



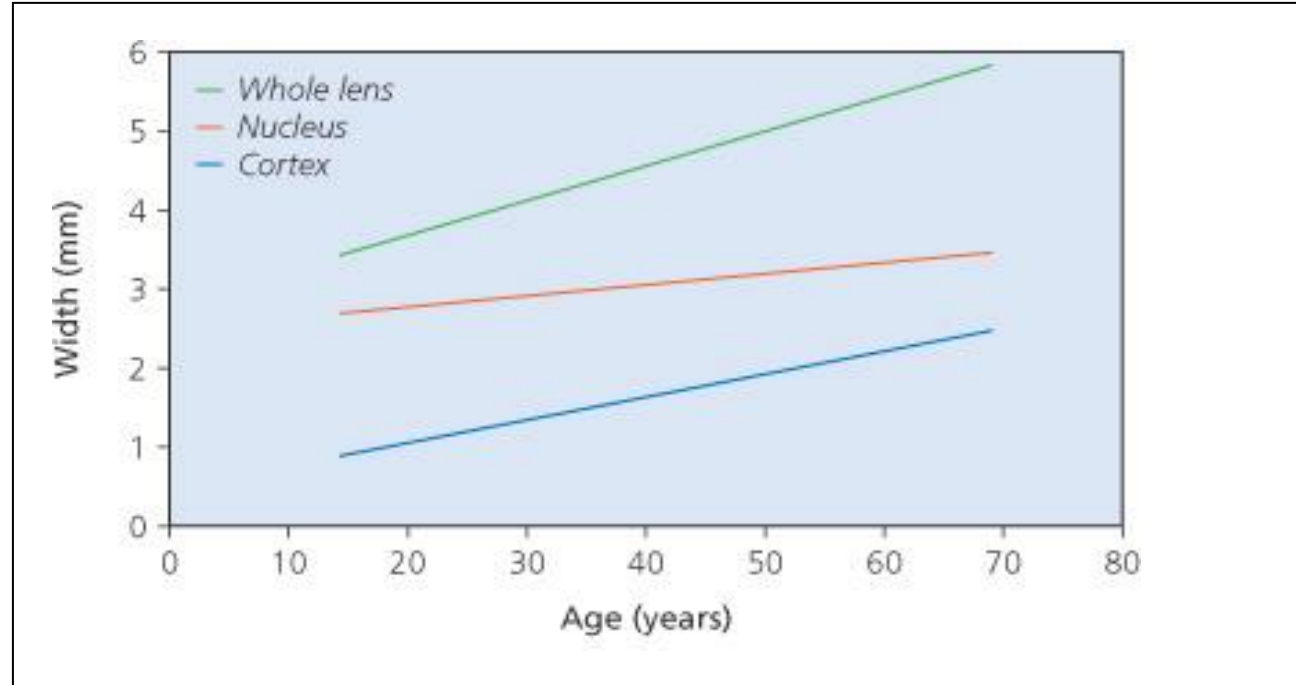
Copper (Wilson & Kayser-Fleischer ring)



Calcium (band keratopathy)



Age related lens modifications



➤ Presbyopia

➤ Risk of acute glaucoma by irido-corneal angle closure

➤ Cataract

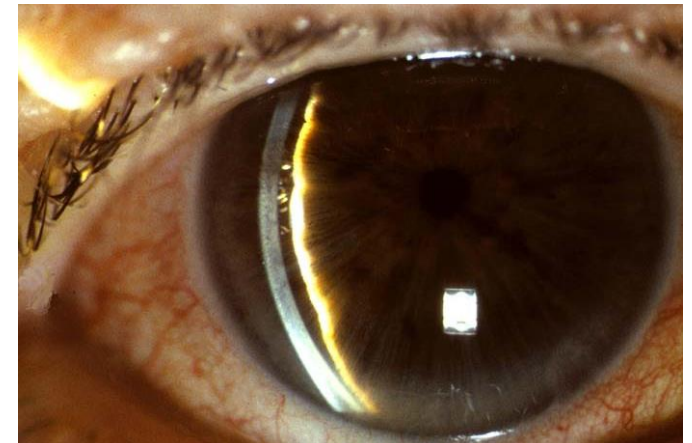
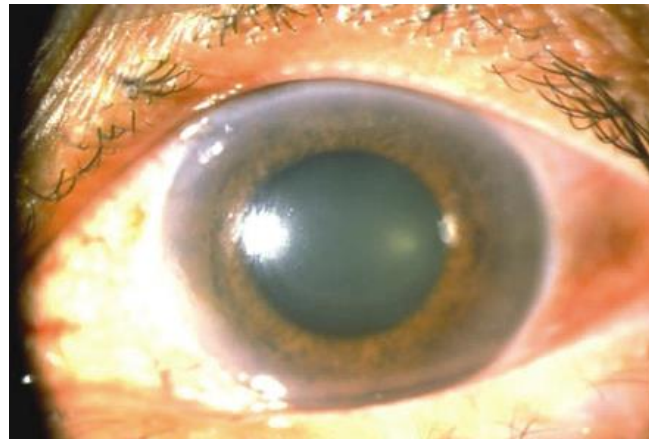
Angle closure glaucoma crisis

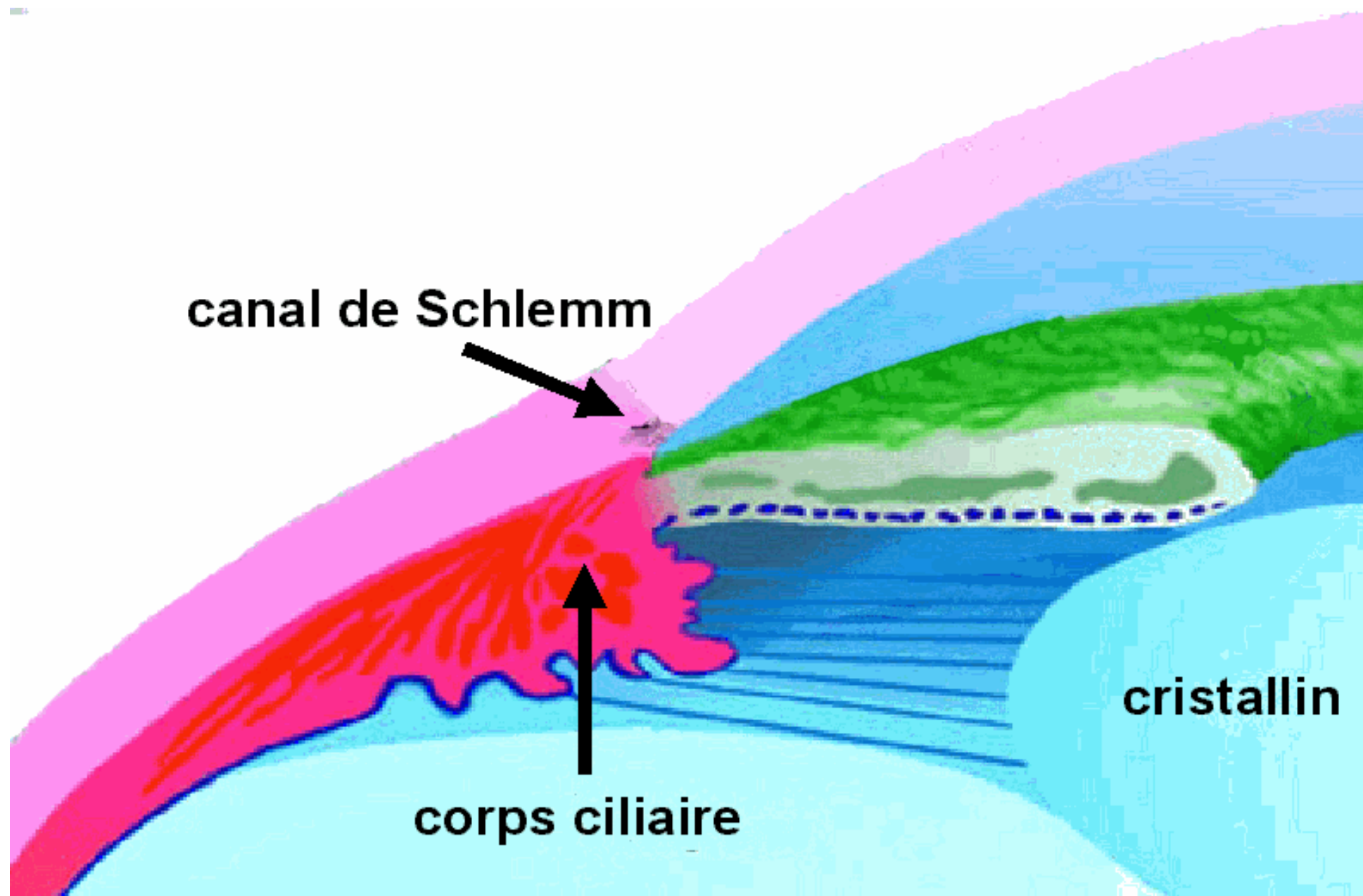
- Symptoms:

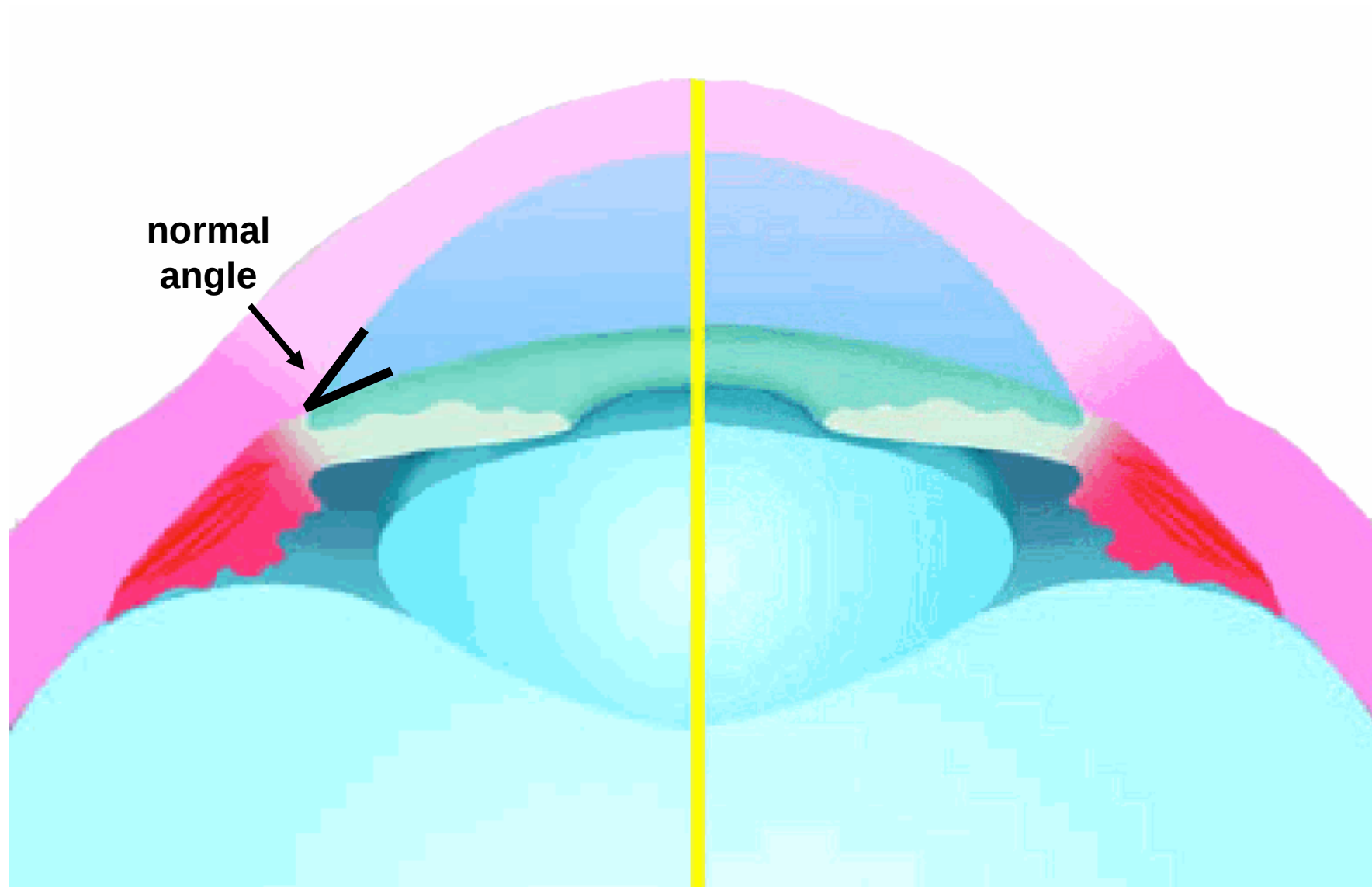
- Pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Halos

- Signs:

- Unilateral red eye
- Semi-mydriasis
- Corneal oedema
- Small anterior chamber







Angle closure glaucoma crisis

Risk and Consequences

- Small hyperopic eyes
- Cataract
- Stress, darkness/mesopic conditions, mydriatic drugs
- Highering of Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP)
 - Optic disk ischaemia
 - Corneal decompensation
 - Iris atrophy

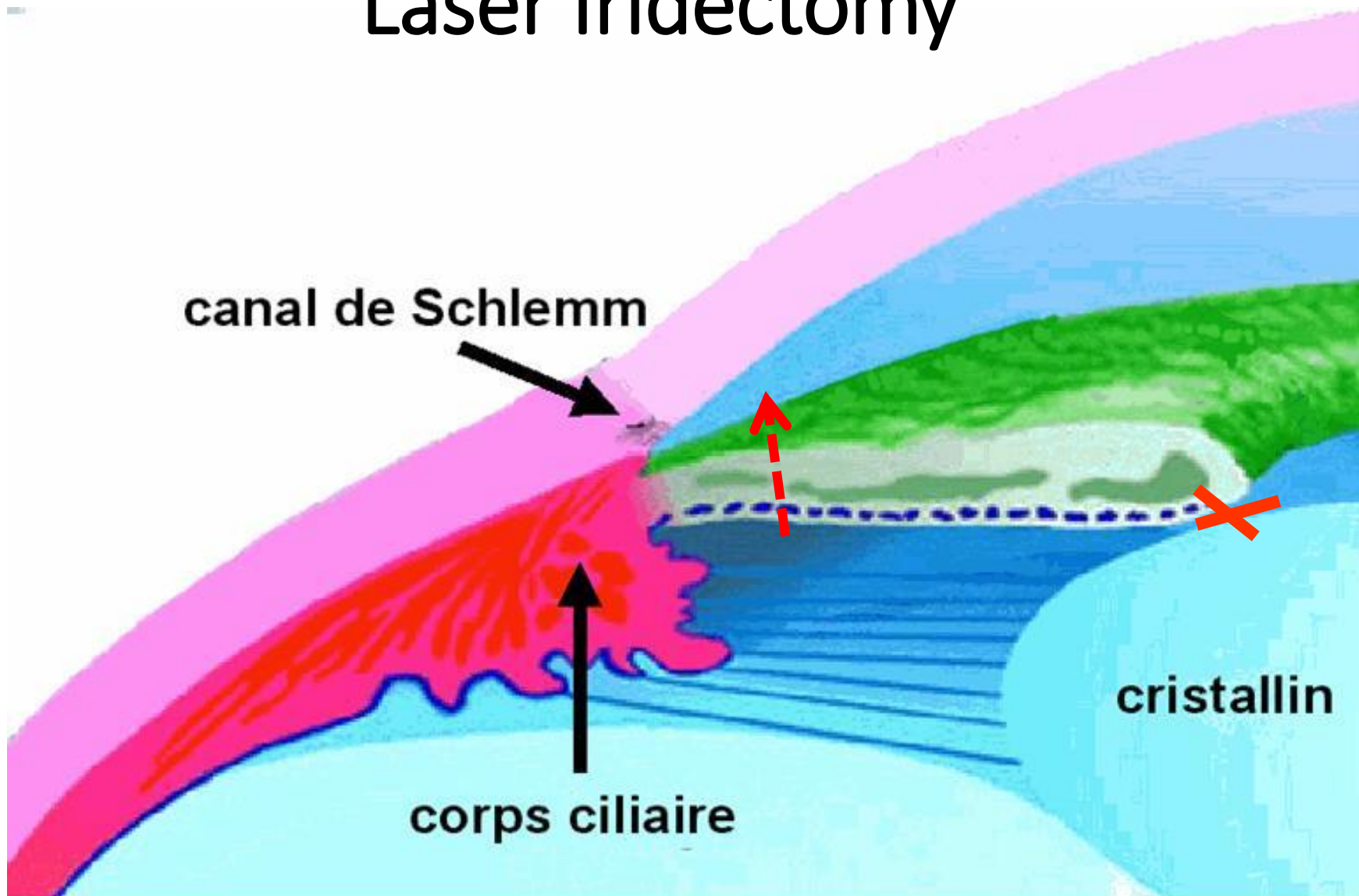
Angle closure glaucoma crisis

Treatment

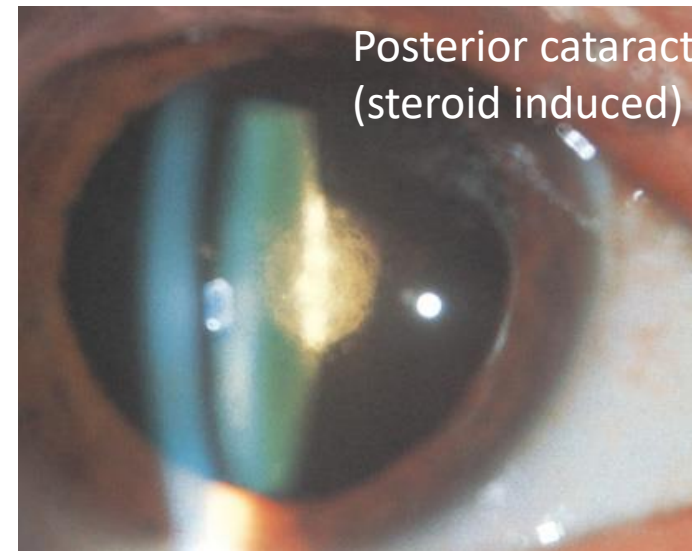
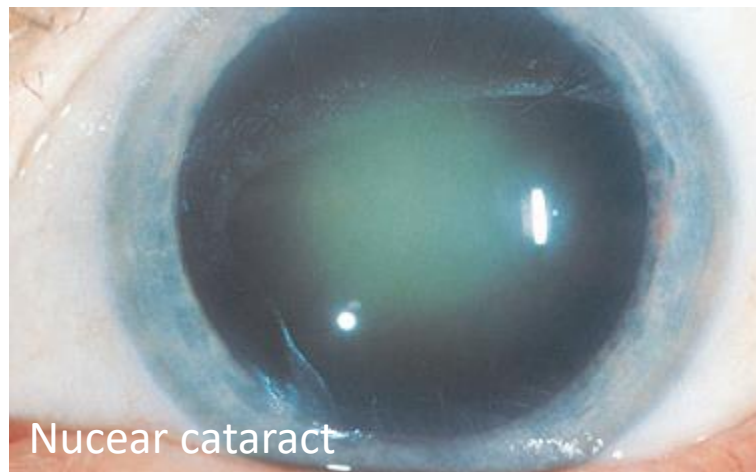
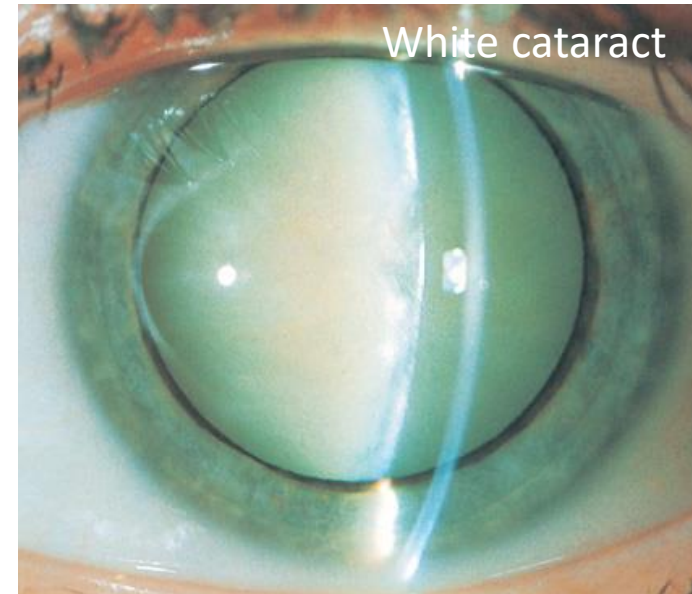
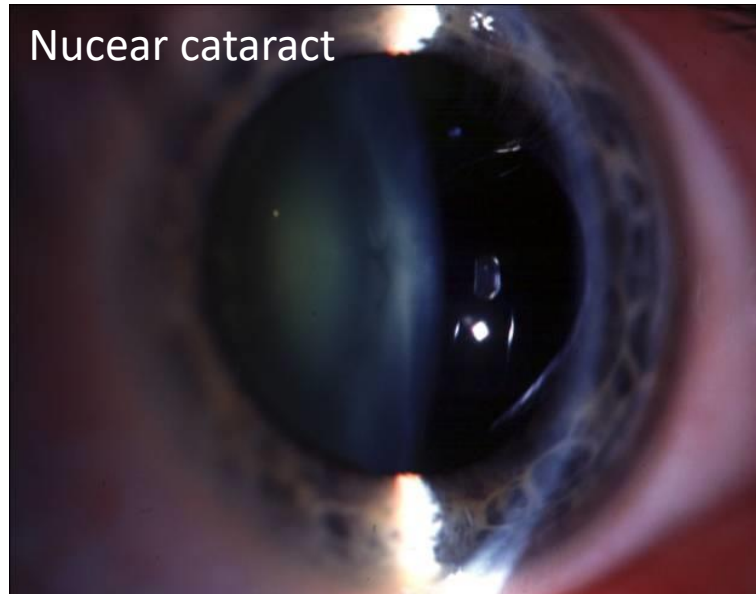
> Emergency treatment

- Decrease IOP
 - Mannitol 20% 200 mL
 - Diamox 500 mgr
 - Local hypotensive drops
- Prevent recurrence
 - Miotic drops (every hour) (Pilocarpine)
 - Pilocarpine in the fellow eye
 - Laser iridectomy
 - Cataract extraction

Laser Iridectomy

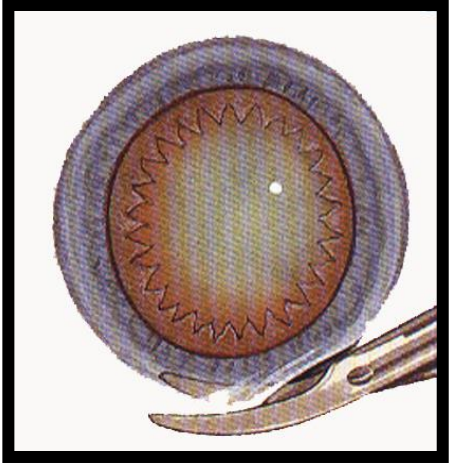


Cataract

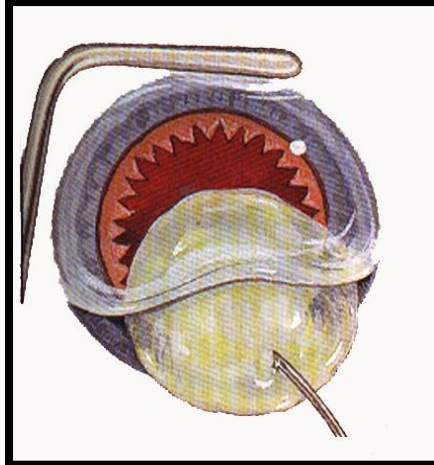


Current Cataract Surgery

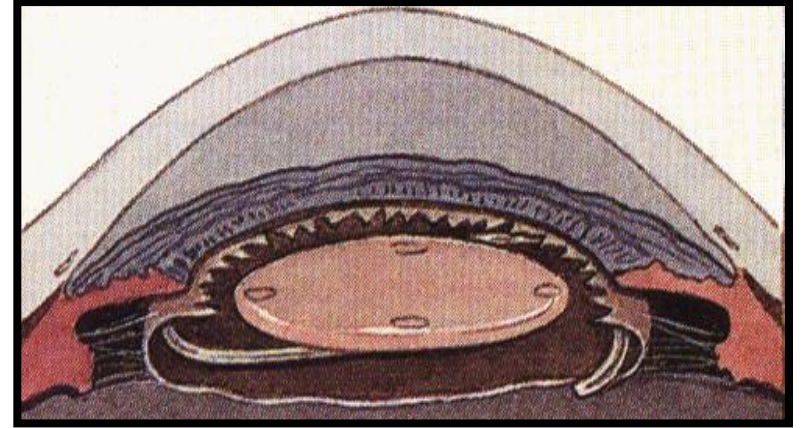
3 basic steps



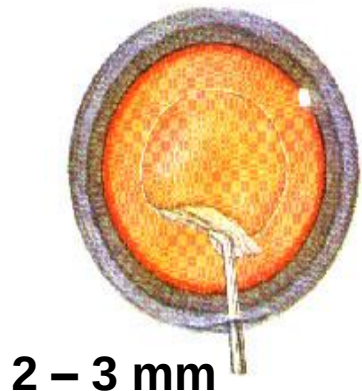
Incision



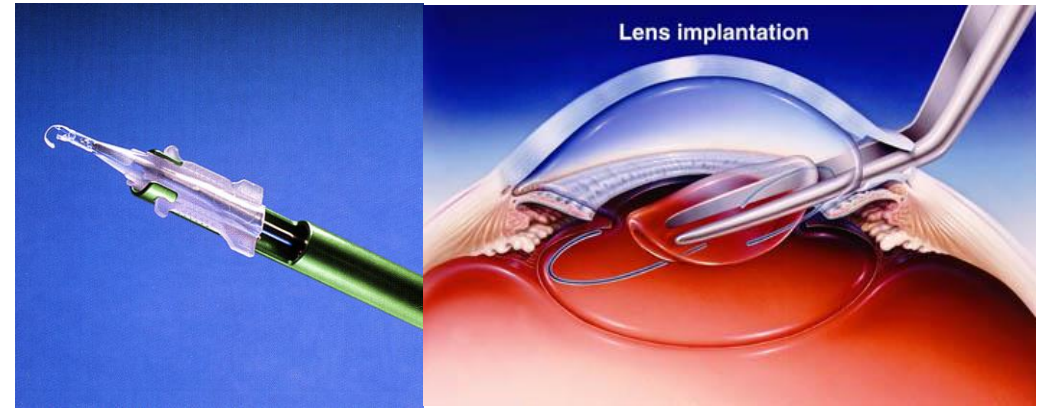
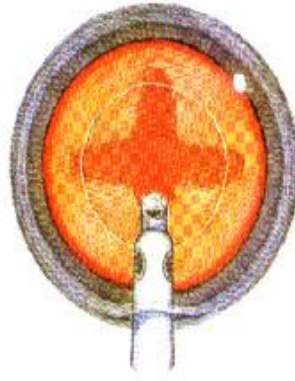
Extraction



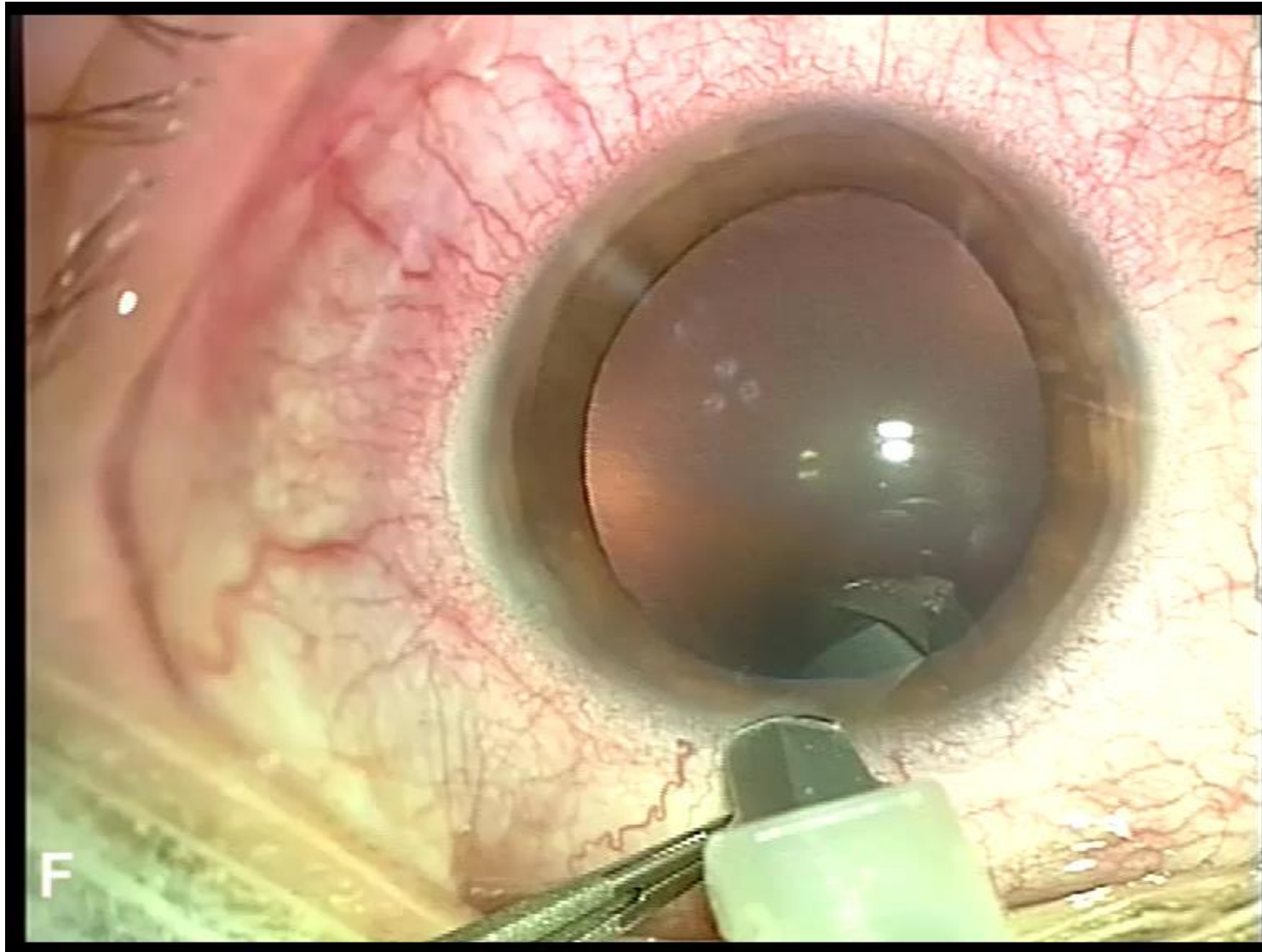
Implantation



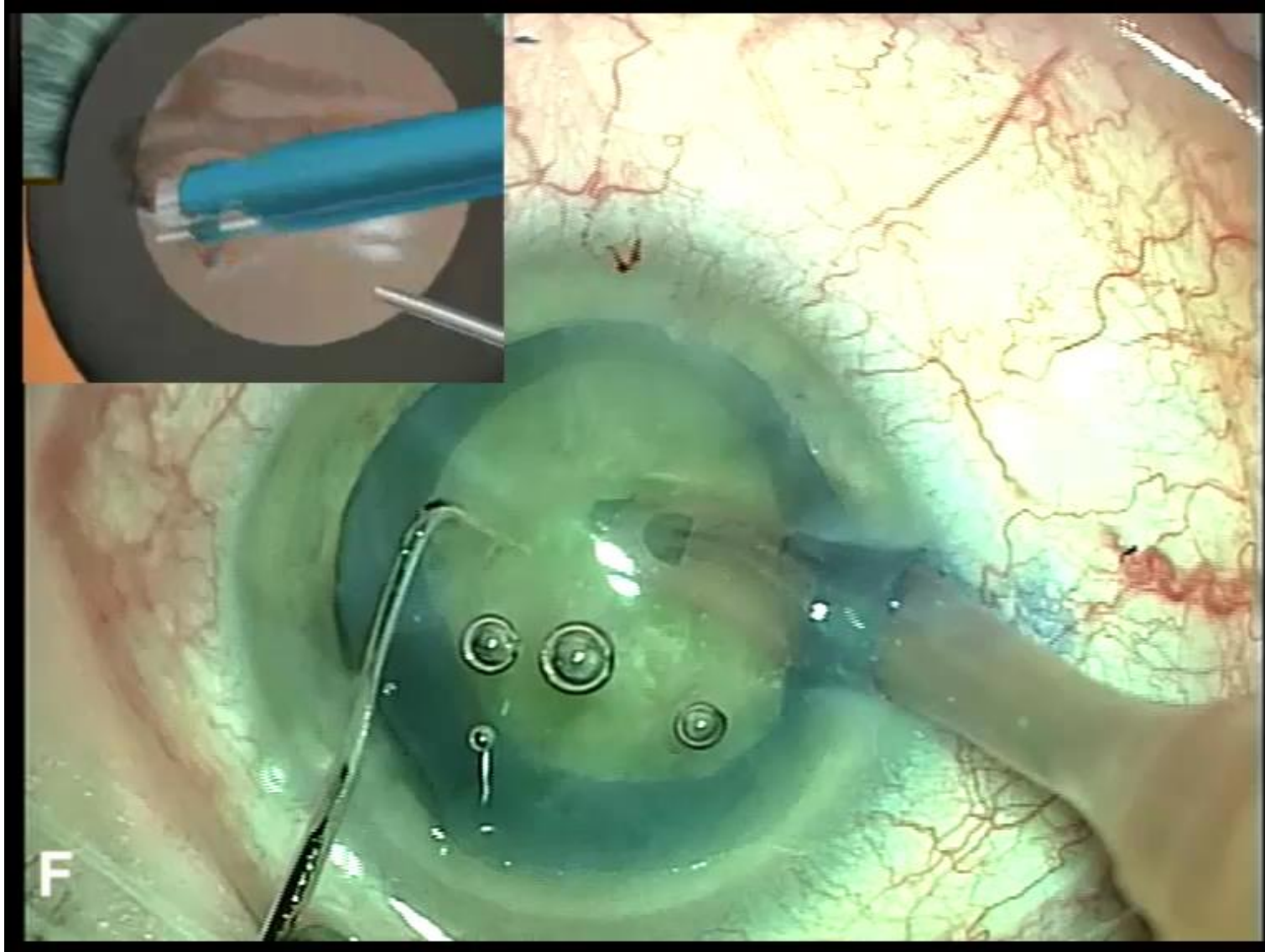
2 - 3 mm



Cataract Surgery – Incision & Capsulorhexis



Cataract Surgery – Phacoemulsification



Cataract Surgery – Implantation



Françoise Van Cauwenberge, Liège

Cataract Surgery

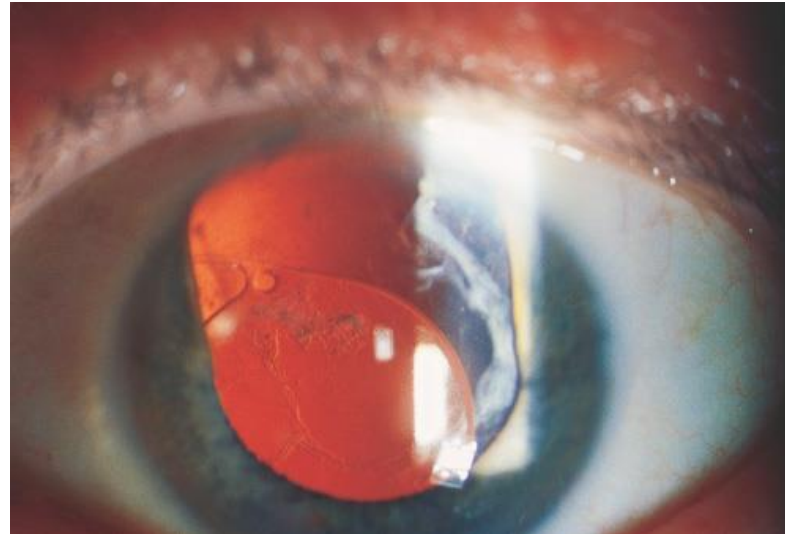
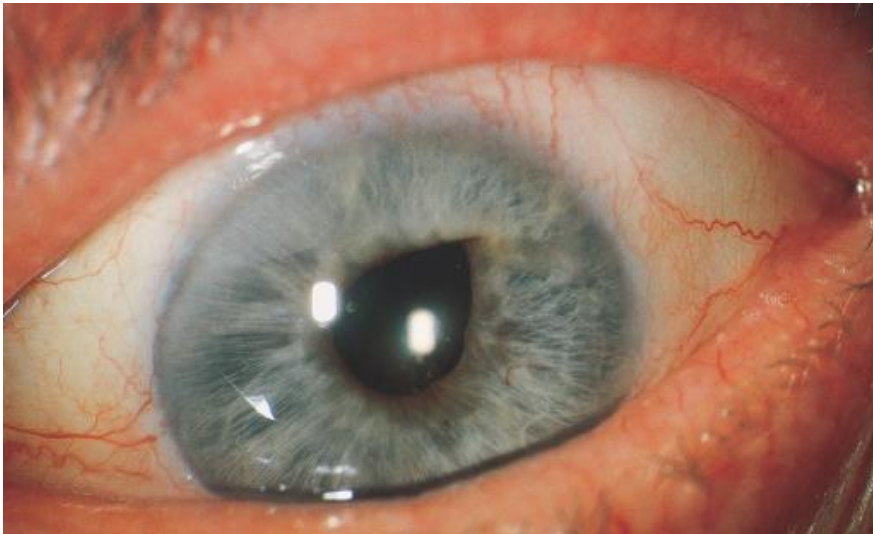
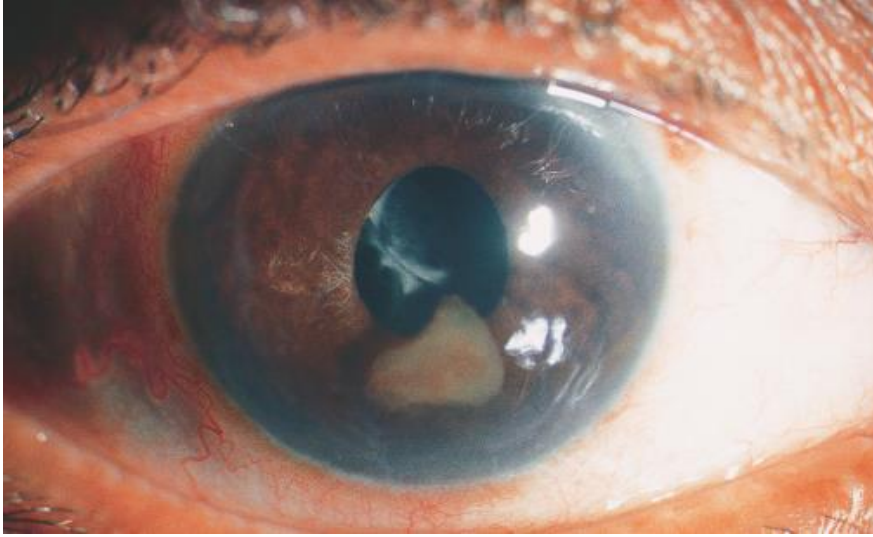
Results and Complications

- Excellent recovery
 - ONLY if the rest of the eye is functional
 - ONLY in the absence of complications
- Complications
 - Surgeon dependent
 - Eye-dependent
 - Patient dependent (Local Anesthesia)

Cataract Surgery Complications

- Corneal complications
- Anterior chamber complications (+/- HIOP)
- Lens related complications
- Capsule opacification (PCO)
- Hemorrhage
- Endophthamia
- Retinal complications

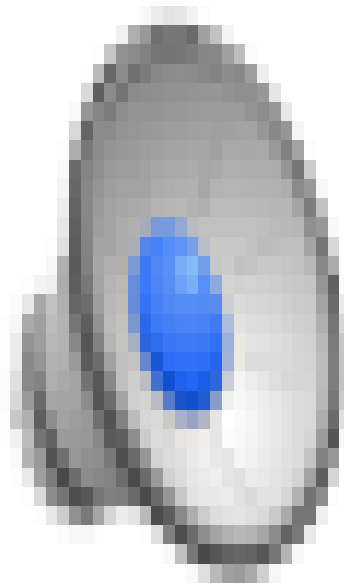
Cataract Surgery Complications



Poor compliance in cataract surgery (local anesthesia)

- Hearing loss
- Desorientation, confusion, Alzheimer
- Uncontrolled movements (Parkinson), blepharospasm
- Respiratory decompensation (cough)
- Cardiac decompensation, vertebral problems...

PCO after cataract surgery



Cataract surgery

Bad visual prognosis

1. Retinal pathology

- Age related Macular Disease (AMD)
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Retinal vasculopathy

2. Optic nerve pathology

Age related Macula Disease

- Common Complex Disease (CCD) (PRS)
- Late-onset neurodegenerative disease that affects the macula
- Leading cause of central vision loss > 75 years old
- 5 clinical Classifications:

- Non detectable aging changes
- Normal aging changes
- Early AMD
- Intermediate AMD
- Late AMD:
 - “Dry” AMD (atrophy)
 - “Wet” AMD (néovascular)



Normal

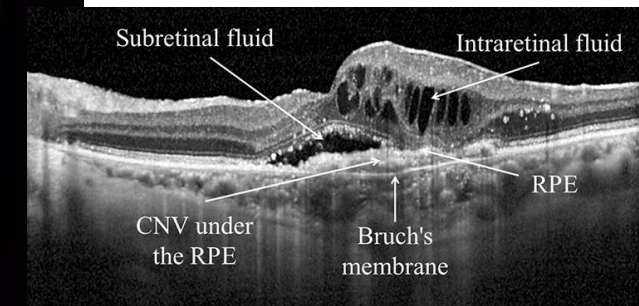
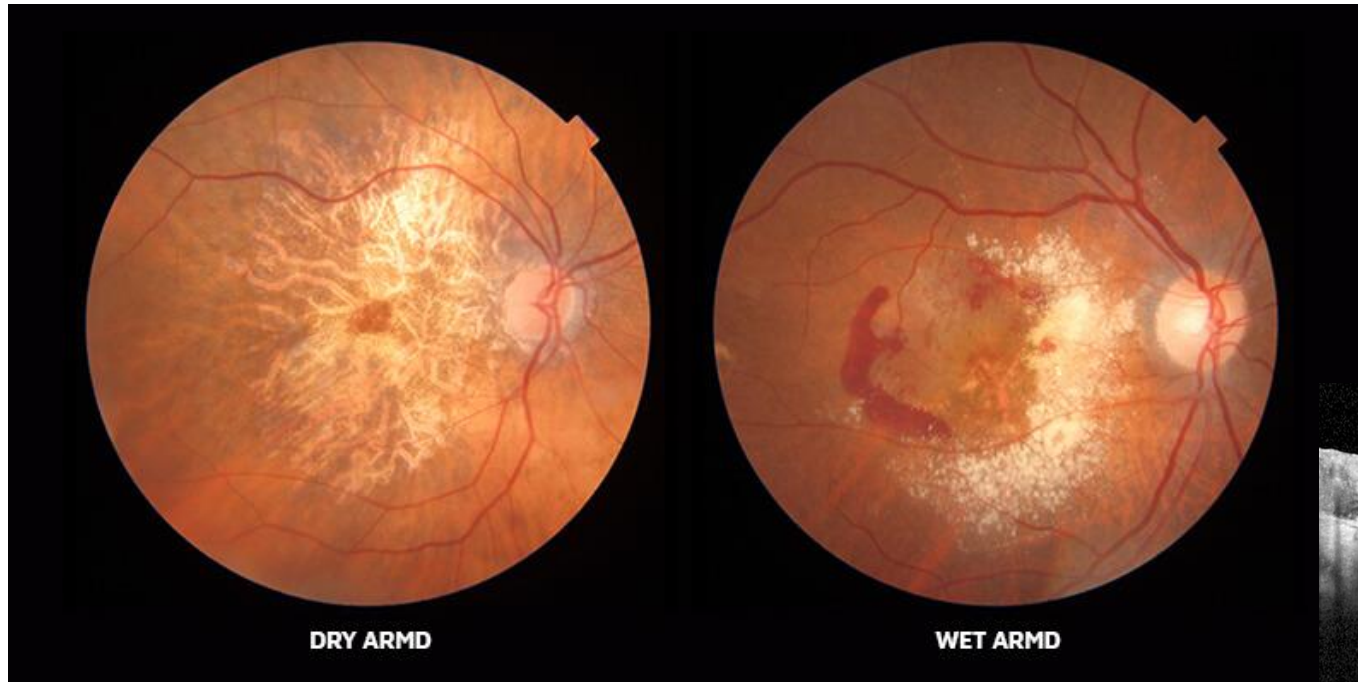
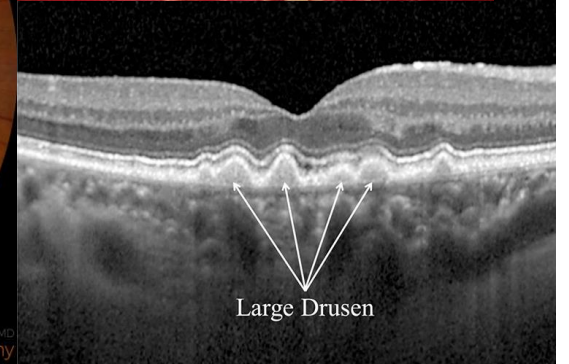
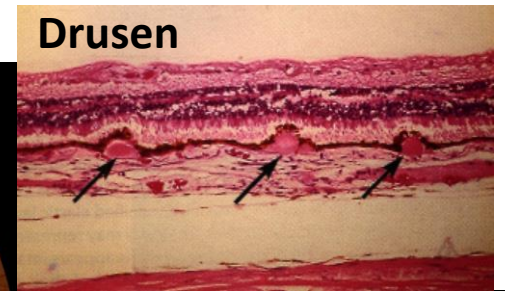
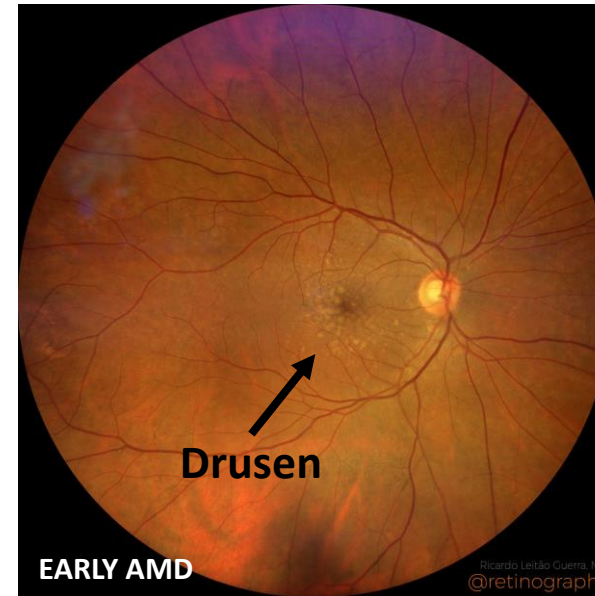
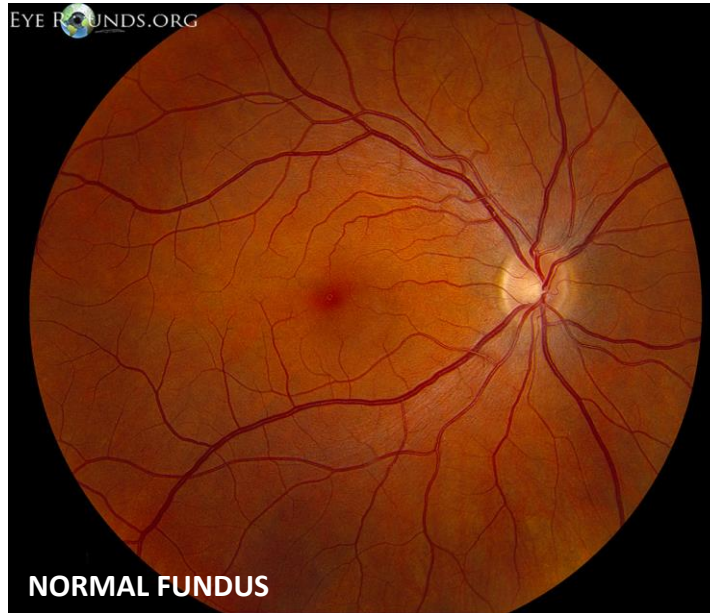


Metamorphopsia



Central Scotoma

- Clinical parameters of AMD progression: drusen & pigmentary changes

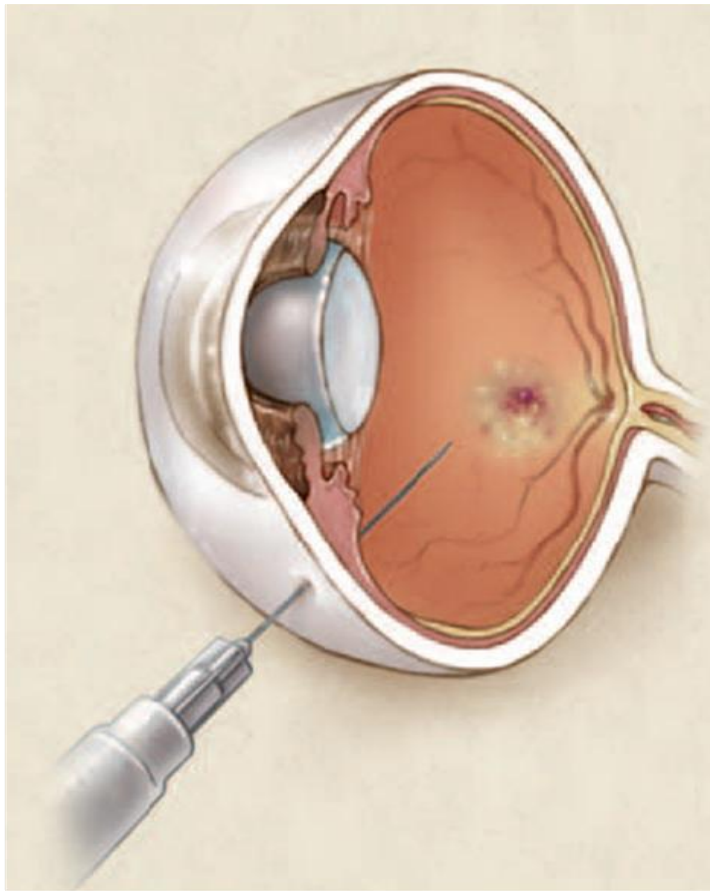


Age related Macula Disease

• Treatment ?

- 👉 • Dietary **supplements** suggested by the AREDS in atrophy AMD
- 👉 • **Intravitreal injections anti-VEGF** in neovascular AMD (Lucentis, Eyléa, Béovu)
- Ongoing clinical trials for **cell replacement therapies** (*Takahashi et al, 2022*)
- High dose **Statins** preventing AMD progression to neovascular AMD through a reduction of drusen volume (*Vavvas et al., 2016*)
- Intravitreal injections of **Pegcetacoplan** (complement C3 inhibitor peptide) and **Avacincaptad pegol** (complement C5 inhibitor RNA aptamer) approved by FDA (*Wilke and Apte, 2024*)

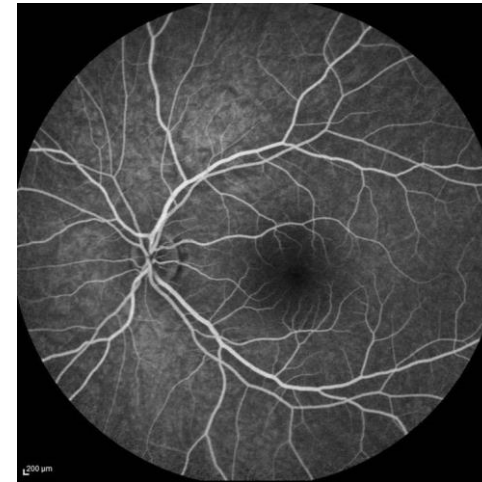
Not yet used in clinical practice



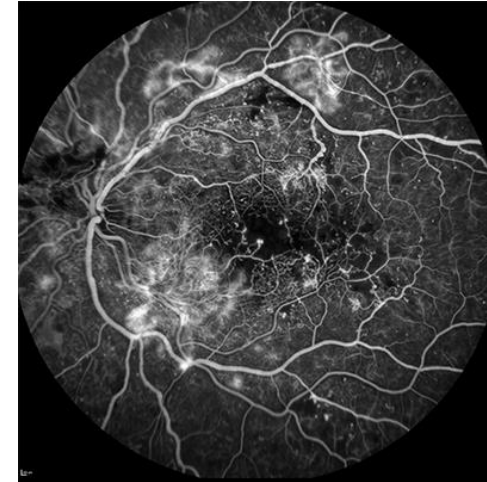
- 1. Low concentrations**
- 2. Limited half-life (4-8 weeks)**
- 3. Still side-effects**

Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

- Prevalence DR increase with time and severity of diabetes
- Effect of hyperglycemia on retinal vessels
 - Obstruction
 - Leakage
- Causes of loss of vision associated to DR
 - Macular edema
 - Microvascular obstruction (ischaemie)
 - Consequences of neovascular vessels (H+, traction, NV Glaucoma)



Normal FA



DR FA

Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

- **Treatment ?**

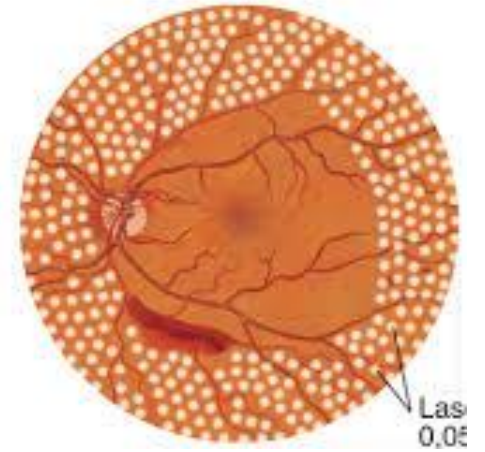
- Balance **risk factors**

- **Laser**

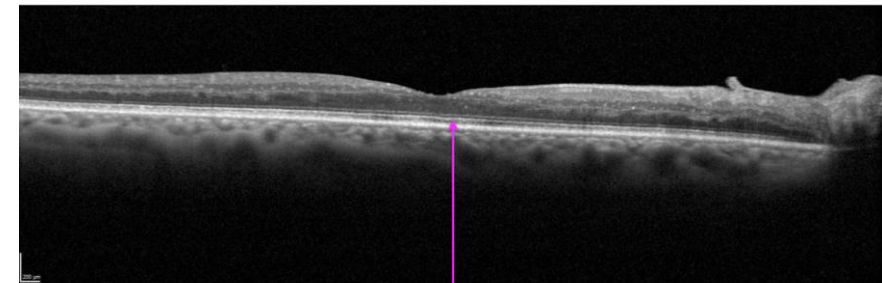
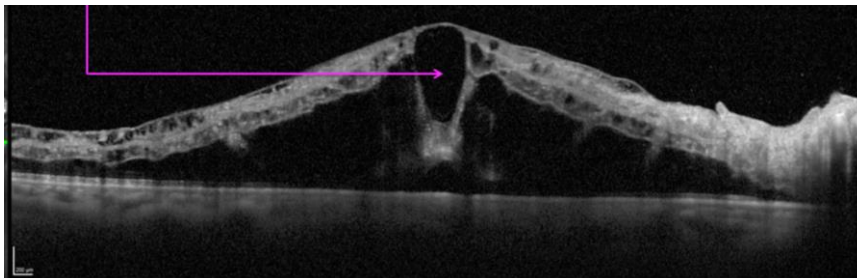
- Peripheral retinal photocoagulation (PRP) (> “Proliferative” DR)
- Focal laser

- **Intravitreal injections anti-VEGF/Triamcinolon**

- **+/- retinal surgery**



Macular edema



No more macular edema

Cataract surgery

Bad visual prognosis

2. Optic nerve pathology

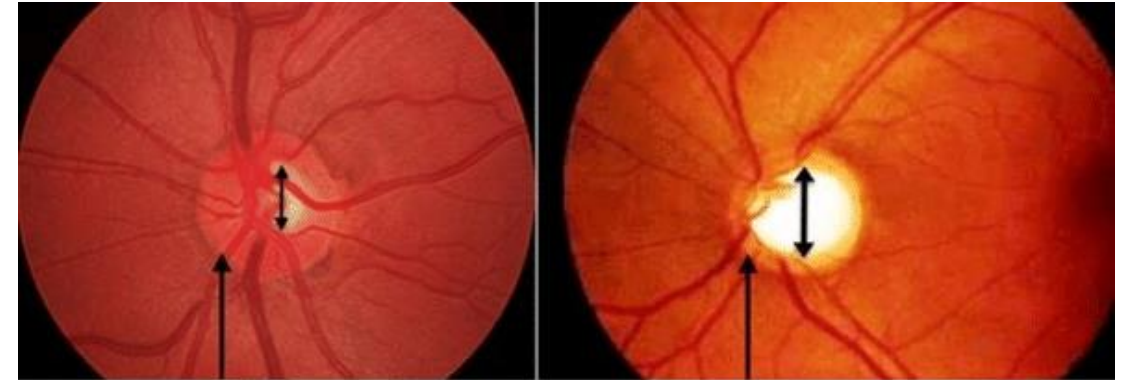
- Chronic glaucoma
- Optic neuropathy
 - Non arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION)
 - Arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (AAION) = Horton

Chronic Glaucoma (OAG)

- Chronic open angle glaucoma (OAG) >< acute glaucoma

- > Irreversible loss of ganglion cells

- Visual field loss



Normal optic nerve head

Glaucomatous cupping

- Prevalence of OAG (=1.1 et 2.2%)

↑ in elderly population

↑ in afro-americans

Glaucome chronique à angle ouvert fréquence (%)				
Age	caucasiens		afro-américains	
40-49	0.18	(543)	0.95	(632)
50-59	0.32	(618)	3.58	(699)
60-69	0.77	(915)	5.05	(614)
70-79	2.85	(631)	7.74	(349)
80	1.94	(206)	10.89	(101)
Total	1.10	(2913)	4.18	(2395)

↓
x 10



Chronic Glaucoma (OAG)

- **Treatment ?**

- **Risk factors in OAG:**

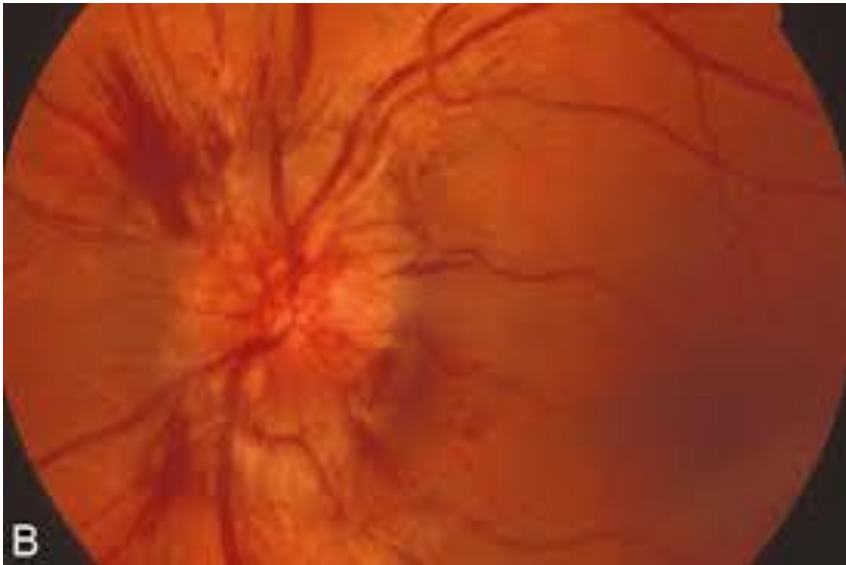
- ↑ Intra ocular pressure
- Age
- Genetics
 - Ethnic group
 - Family history
- Thin cornea



- 👉 **Local hypotensive eye drops**
- 👉 **Laser**
- 👉 **Surgery**

Anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy

- Most frequent of acute optic neuropathy > 50 years old
- Optic nerve head ischaemia
 - NAION ? (5-10%)
 - AAION ? (90-95%)



Anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy

AAION

70 years old

W>M

systemic symptoms (80%)

VA <1/10 in (>60% cases)

CRP

↑ ESR 70mm/h

Rare improvement and second eye involved in 50-60% cases w/o TT

IV Corticosteroid therapy emergency
(1g/day; 3-5 days)

NAION

60 years old

W=M

CVRF

VA >1/10 (>60 % cases)

CRP normal

ESR 20-40 mm/h

Improvement in 30% cases and second eye involved in 15% cases

No TT

Conclusions

- Many ocular arise with increasing age
- A few may be treated
 - > Depending on the correct diagnosis
 - > Depending on the systemic context