

LEARNING THE LINGO: OPHTHALMIC ABBREVIATIONS

Given the amount of abbreviations in the ophthalmic lexicon, one might think ophthalmologists speak purely in code. To help you avoid the confusion and steer away from the embarrassing mistake, this cheat sheet includes more than 100 basic abbreviations you'll need to know as you learn the professional lingo.

AC	Anterior chamber	HM	Hand motion	POHS	Presumed ocular histoplasmosis syndrome
ALT	Argon laser trabeculoplasty	HSV	Herpes simplex virus	PPA	Peripapillary atrophy
APD, RAPD	(Relative) Afferent pupillary defect	HVF	Humphrey visual field	PPL	Pars plana lensectomy
ARMD, AMD	Age-related macular degeneration	HZO	Herpes zoster ophthalmicus	PPV	Pars plana vitrectomy
ASC	Anterior subcapsular cataract	IOL	Intraocular lens	PRK	Photorefractive keratectomy
BDR	Background diabetic retinopathy	IOP	Intraocular pressure	PRP	Panretinal photocoagulation
BRAO	Branch retinal artery occlusion	IRMA	Intraretinal microvascular abnormality	PS	Posterior synechiae
BRVO	Branch retinal vein occlusion	KPs	Keratic precipitates	PSC	Posterior subcapsular cataract
BSCL	Bandage soft contact lens	LASIK	Laser in situ keratomileusis	PTK	Phototherapeutic keratectomy
CACG	Chronic angle-closure glaucoma	LHT	Left hypertropia	PVD	Posterior vitreous detachment
cC	With correction	LP	Light perception	PVR	Proliferative vitreoretinopathy
CE/IOL	Cataract extraction with intraocular lens implant	LPI	Laser peripheral iridotomy	PXG	Pseudoexfoliation glaucoma
CF	Count fingers	MA	Microaneurysm	PXS	Pseudoexfoliation syndrome
C₃F₈	Perfluoropropane (gas)	MH	Macular hole	RAPD	Relative afferent pupillary defect
CL	Contact lens	MP	Membrane peeling or macular pucker	RD	Retinal detachment
COAG	Chronic open-angle glaucoma	MR	Manifest refraction	RHT	Right hypertropia
CNVM, CNV	Choroidal neovascular membrane	NLP	No light perception	RK	Radial keratotomy
CPC	Cyclophotocoagulation	NPDR	Nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy	ROP	Retinopathy of prematurity
CRAO	Central retinal artery occlusion	NS	Nuclear sclerosis	RP	Retinitis pigmentosa
CRS	Chorioretinal scar	NVA	Neovascularization of the angle	RPE	Retinal pigment epithelium
CRVO	Central retinal vein occlusion	NVD	Neovascularization at disc	RRD	Rhegmatogenous retinal detachment
CSME	Clinically significant macular edema	NVE	Neovascularization elsewhere	SB	Scleral buckle
CSR, CSCR	Central serous (chorio) retinopathy	NVG	Neovascular glaucoma	sC	Without correction
DCR	Dacryocystorhinostomy	NVI	Neovascularization of iris (rubeosis iridis)	SF₆	Sulfur hexafluoride (gas)
DES	Dry eye syndrome	OD	Oculus dexter (right eye)	SLE	Slit-lamp examination
DR	Diabetic retinopathy	OGR	Open globe repair	SLT	Selective laser trabeculoplasty
DSAEK	Descemet stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty	OS	Oculus sinister (left eye)	SO, SIO	Silicone oil
E	Esophoria	OU	Oculus uterque (both eyes)	SRF	Subretinal fluid
ECCE	Extracapsular cataract extraction	PACG	Primary angle-closure glaucoma	SRH	Subretinal hemorrhage
EKC	Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis	PAS	Peripheral anterior synechiae	TA	Tonometry by applanation
EL	Endolaser	PC	Posterior chamber	TBUT	Tear breakup time
ERM	Epiretinal membrane	PCO	Posterior capsule opacity	TRD	Tractional retinal detachment
ET	Esotropia	PDR	Proliferative diabetic retinopathy	VA	Visual acuity
E(T)	Intermittent esotropia	PED	Pigment epithelial detachment	VF	Visual field
FAX, AFx	Fluid-air exchange	PEE	Punctate epithelial erosion	VH	Vitreous hemorrhage
FTCF	Full to count fingers	PERRL(A)	Pupils equal, round, reactive to light and accommodation	X	Exophoria
		PH	Pinhole	XT	Exotropia
		PK, PKP	Penetrating keratoplasty	X(T)	Intermittent exotropia
		POAG	Primary open-angle glaucoma	YAG	Yttrium-aluminum-garnet laser used in posterior capsule opacity; also referred to as a neodymium (Nd): YAG laser

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