

Aphakia



Description

Aphakia is the absence of the crystalline lens of the eye. An eye that has no natural lens is termed an 'aphakic eye'.

The crystalline lens is a transparent flexible part of the eye's tissues that helps to focus light (refract) on the retina (back of the eye).

Aphakia most commonly occurs after surgery for cataracts, when the cloudy or opaque crystalline lens is removed, and an artificial lens has not been inserted.

The condition may also occur if there is an injury to the eye, an ulcerative issue requiring lens removal, or a congenital anomaly.

Implications

In general, children who are left aphakic following surgery, will require correction through contact lenses and/or glasses. These can usually provide some correction for refractive errors.

Loss of accommodation is likely; the eye may have difficulty achieving and maintaining focus. Usually there will be decreased acuity (clarity or sharpness of vision) for near vision, and photophobia (sensitivity to light) will be present.

Colour may be perceived as faded or washed out.

Other conditions may also be present including hyperopia (long sightedness), glaucoma and amblyopia.

Intraocular lens implants are a common treatment, however optical correction (contact lenses and glasses) is still required.

Accessing the curriculum

Reduce classroom environmental glare. Avoid whiteboards, reflective white paper (buff may provide better access), and instruction next to windows.

Provide seating at the front of the class to ensure the student has the best possible view of the teaching focus.

Consider enlarging print.

Consider the provision of dark lined paper.

Encourage the student to wear sunglasses and hat to reduce glare when outdoors.

Click to see an [Interactive Eye Diagram](#) (web link)

As this document contains generic information, please consult with the Vision Education Program in regard to individual educational needs.

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