

Diplopia (double vision) and driving

Ophthalmology

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Introduction

You are experiencing symptoms of double vision. This leaflet will explain how this affects you if you have a driving licence.

What is diplopia?

Double vision is also known as Diplopia.

Diplopia is when you see two of things when you know there is only one.

Diplopia can be there all of the time or some of the time.

This could be as a result of a longstanding squint or eye movement problem that you've not previously been aware of, or may not have caused you any symptoms.

Other causes can be when there is an issue with the nerves or blood supply to the muscles that help to move they eyes, or as a result of an injury to the eyes or surrounding tissue.

How is diplopia treated?

Prisms or occlusion may be offered to help eliminate the double vision. This is for symptom relief only and does not treat the cause of diplopia.

Prisms are designed to join the two images together so that you only see one. This is achieved by changing the way light enters your eye.

Occlusion is when one eye is covered with a patch or a lens on glasses is frosted in order to take away the second image.

Can I drive with diplopia?

You should tell the Driver and Vehicle License Agency (DVLA) if you have Diplopia. The DVLA advice is to stop driving while you have diplopia and you should not drive until it either goes away or the DVLA have said you are allowed to drive with treatment that controls the diplopia.

There are certain exceptions if you have had diplopia for a long time and have adapted to it and meet the legal requirements for driving.

Group 2 (bus, lorry, coach etc) drivers are not allowed to drive with occlusion.

You may wish to travel as a passenger before trying to drive using diplopia correction, and you should proceed with caution.

Your insurance could be invalid if you are involved in an accident while you have a medical condition which could affect your driving, and you have not told DVLA about this condition.

“You can be fined up to £1,000 if you don’t tell DVLA about a medical condition that affects your driving. You may be prosecuted if you’re involved in an accident as a result.”*

*from www.gov.uk/diplopia-and-driving.

What are my responsibilities?

- Do not drive with diplopia
- Inform DVLA

People with a driving licence must tell DVLA if they have or develop any medical conditions which can affect driving. This includes diplopia. You can tell DVLA how your diplopia is being treated or controlled.

How do I report a medical condition?

- Report your condition online via <https://www.gov.uk/diplopia-and-driving>; or
- Fill in form V1 (for car or motorbike) or form V1V (for bus, coach or lorry) and send it to DVLA – the address is written on the forms. You can find these forms online and print them, or request them from DVLA.

What happens next?

Once you have informed the DVLA, wait for them to contact you. They may say you can drive with diplopia correction. If the DVLA require you to give up your licence, you may be able to re-apply for it, if and when your diplopia has resolved or is controlled well enough. In some situations, you may be allowed to drive even when your diplopia cannot be controlled, if a sufficient length of time has passed and you are considered to be stable and adapted to the diplopia. DVLA may request a report from your consultant to aid in their decision.

This leaflet is intended for information purposes. While we have aimed to provide up to date information, please check for any recent changes to DVLA guidance.

For further information please visit:

www.gov.uk/transport/driving-and-medical-conditions

Or contact DVLA by post:

Drivers' Medical Enquiries

DVLA

Swansea

SA99 1TU

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowałiby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。