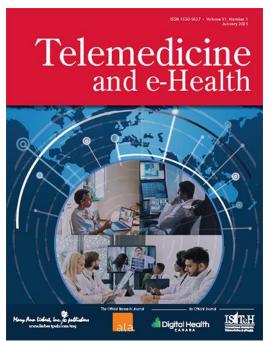
## **Virtual Visits in Ophthalmology**



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**Virtual Visits in Ophthalmology** decrease patient cost, increase satisfaction, and allow ophthalmologists to care for patients efficiently. Ophthalmology conditions that can be screened, diagnosed, and sometimes treated virtually include: dry eye syndrome, subconjunctival

hemorrhage, blepharitis, chalazia, mild cases of allergic conjunctivitis, certain types of corneal abrasions, and early stages of diabetic retinopathy or age-related macular degeneration; where detailed imaging and monitoring through telemedicine allows for assessment and management, often requiring follow-up in-person visits for more complex cases or treatment decisions.

"Our experience shows that much can be gleaned to facilitate medical decisionmaking and counselling."

Our experience in Virtual Visits has been in pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus clinics, but we believe our breadth of practice translates well to other subspecialties.

<u>Table 3</u> presents a list of suggestions that is certain to expand as the field of ocular telemedicine innovates. In some cases, a hybrid model can be used where testing is performed in the office and history and review of results are performed virtually.

Suggested Scenarios Across Ophthalmology Where Virtual Visits May Be Utilized

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7640749/#tb3

COMPREHENSIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of conservative therapy in a patient with eye irritation
Evaluation of response to conservative therapy
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of conservative therapy
Evaluation of response to conservative therapy
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of conservative therapy in a patient with eye irritation
Evaluation of response to conservative therapy
Diagnosis and determination of necessity of repair
Follow-up evaluation to monitor resolution of pain, redness, irritation, and healing
Evaluate for corneal opacification that might signify infection
Follow-up evaluation to monitor resolution of pain, redness, irritation, and healing
Follow-up evaluation of corneal light reflex to see whether it is sharp (and abrasion healed)
CORNEA
Evaluation of medication adherence and subjective vision
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of treatment
Follow-up evaluation to monitor response to treatment
GLAUCOMA
Evaluation of symptoms with self-administered confrontation visual fields
Evaluation of medication adherence and subjective vision
In-person visit for intraocular pressure check and visual field evaluation followed by review of results virtually to minimize contact
Evaluation of adverse medication reaction
Counseling of how to change administration
NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in treatment
Follow-up evaluation for adherence to treatment plan and recurrence/worsening of symptoms
Follow-up evaluation of subjective visual function including acuity, color, and visual field
Review ancillary testing including fundus photography, OCT, and automated perimetry
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in evaluation and treatment
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Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in evaluation  Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in evaluation and treatment
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in evaluation and treatment
Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of next steps in evaluation and treatment  Follow-up evaluation of treatment efficacy (prism glasses or strabismus surgery)

Follow-up evaluation of treatment efficacy after discharge

Postsurgical evaluation of healing and review of pathology

Triage, diagnosis, and initiation of treatment

Orbital cellulitis

Eyelid lesion

Table 3. Suggested Scenarios Across Ophthalmology Where Virtual Visits May Be Utilized <i>continued</i> OCULOPLASTICS		
Postsurgical evaluation of healing		
Thyroid eye disease	Follow-up evaluation of ocular motility and proptosis	
RETINA		
Flashes and floaters	Triage to understand the nature and suggest in-person evaluation if needed	
	Consider patient-administered confrontation visual field testing	
Macular degeneration	Review ancillary testing including fundus photography, OCT, and FA	
	Amsler grid testing done through a screen share to the patient	
Diabetic retinopathy	Review ancillary testing including fundus photography, OCT, and FA	
	Counsel on blood glucose monitoring and control	
	UVEITIS	
Iritis	Follow-up to evaluate for redness and photophobia	
FA, fluorescein angiography; OCT,	optical coherence tomography.	