Relative Costs For the Evaluation and Treatment of Conditions Leading to Visual Impairment
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This section will give a very rough guide to fees for ophthalmologic office visits and surgeries, which might be expected to be necessary for patients with visual impairments. It should be noted that such fees vary widely from one region to the next and also will vary depending on insurance reimbursement rates. These should be used only as a guideline, and any time exact figures are necessary in the care of a patient with a visual impairment, the physicians who are likely to perform the services should be contacted directly and prevailing fees at that time requested.

A new patient consultation with an ophthalmologist, which is defined as an examination of a new patient with a report prepared for the referring agency or physician, can vary between roughly $85 and $220. If the consultation is with an ophthalmic specialist, such as a retina doctor, cornea doctor, pediatric ophthalmologist, glaucoma specialist, plastic surgeon, or neuro-ophthalmologist, the consultation is likely to cost between $150 and $300. Return follow-up visits to an ophthalmologist will generally vary between about $40 and $75. If the patient has formal testing of the visual fields, the charge for this may vary between $50 and $100.

Common surgeries, which a patient with an ocular problem might require, could include the following: (All following fees, refer to the surgeon’s component only).

- Repair of a corneal laceration: $1,200 - $1,900
- Removal of hyphema (bleeding in the inner chamber): $400
- Retinal detachment surgery: $3,000 - $6,000
- Cataract removal: $1,200 - $2,300
- Laser surgery for control of glaucoma: $500 - $1,000
- Trabeculectomy (Regular Glaucoma Surgery): $1,200
- Enucleation: $1,200 - $1,400
- Extraocular muscle surgery: $500 - $1,500 depending on how many muscles are operated on and the exact procedure performed
- Vitrectomy: $1,400.

Typically, if Medicare is the insurer, the above fees would be significantly reduced and the charges limited at least by current Medicare policy. Then, if any such procedures are necessary for a patient, it would be best to contact the surgeon performing the procedure for the exact fee at that point in time, as well as other estimated costs.

References