

UNSW SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE

APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS FOR USE BY STUDENTS

The abbreviations in this list are not permitted for use in professional outgoing correspondence including referral letters, reports and prescriptions. For this purpose, students are instead referred to their supervisors and other resources e.g., the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare 'Recommendations for safe use of medicines terminology'.

Abbreviation	Definition	Year introduced	Topic area
Acc	accommodation	1	Ocular function
AC/A	accommodative convergence/accommodation ratio	3	Binocular Vision
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome	2	Disease general
Add	addition (lenses)	2	Optics
APD	afferent pupillary defect	2	Disease ocular
A/c	aftercare visit	2	Treatment
ATR	against the rule astigmatism	2	Optics
AMD	age-related macular degeneration or age-related maculopathy preceded by 'exudative' or 'atrophic' ARM and ARMD are to be avoided	2	Disease ocular
Alt	alternating	3	Binocular Vision
Alt ET	alternating esotropia (constant, see also intermittent; previously ST)	3	Binocular Vision
Alt XT	alternating exotropia (constant, see also intermittent)	3	Binocular Vision
amp	amplitude	1	Ocular function
ACG	angle closure glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
Ant	anterior	1	General
AC	anterior chamber	1	Anatomy
ACC	anterior cortical cataract	3	Disease ocular
AION	anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy	3	Disease ocular
~	approximately	1	General
approx	approximately	1	General
Arg	Argon Laser	3	Instruments
A/V	arteriole/venule ratio	1	Anatomy
PRN	as necessary (pro re nata)	4	Treatment
ASAP	as soon as possible	1	General
Astig	astigmatism	1	Optics
Nocte	at night	3	Treatment
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	4	History
BCOD	back central optic diameter	4	Contact lenses
BCOR	back central optic radius	4	Contact lenses
BOZD	back optic zone diameter	4	Contact lenses
BOZR	back optic zone radius	4	Contact lenses
BVD	back vertex distance	2	Optics
BVP	back vertex power	2	Optics
BAF	binocular accommodative facility	3	Binocular Vision
bal	balance	2	General
BCC	basal cell carcinoma	2	Disease general
BC	base curve	2	Optics
BD	base down prism (followed by R or L for right or left eye)	3	Binocular Vision
BU	base up prism (followed by R or L for right or left eye)	3	Binocular Vision
BI	base-in prism (may be followed by R or L for right or left eye)	3	Binocular Vision
BO	base-out prism (may be followed by R or L for right or left eye)	3	Binocular Vision
BCVA	best corrected visual acuity	1	Visual function
BF	bifocal(s)	2	Optics
binoc	binocular	2	General
BIO	binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy	2	Instruments
BV	binocular vision	3	Binocular Vision
bleph	blepharitis	3	Disease ocular
BP	blood pressure	2	Disease general
BE	both eyes	1	Testing

OU	both eyes (oculus uterque)	2	Testing
BRAO	branch retinal artery occlusion	3	Disease ocular
BRVO	branch retinal vein occlusion	3	Disease ocular
CA/C	Convergence Accommodation/Convergence ratio	3	Binocular Vision
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation	3	General
Cat(s)	cataract(s)	3	Disease ocular
CNS	central nervous system	1	Anatomy
CRAO	central retinal artery occlusion	3	Disease ocular
CRVO	central retinal vein occlusion	3	Disease ocular
CSCR	central serous chorioretinopathy	3	Disease ocular
CENTn	centration	2	Optics
CD	centration distance	2	Optics
CVA	cerebral vascular accident	2	Disease general
CSF	cerebro spinal fluid	2	Disease general
Δ	change or change in; also prism (dioptries)	1	Optics
COAG	chronic open angle glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
CBB	ciliary body	1	Anatomy
CSME	clinically significant macular (o)edema	3	Disease ocular
CVTME	Color Vision Testing Made Easy (test)	2	Testing
C/o	complains of	2	History
CT	computed tomography	2	Disease general
Conj	conjunctiva	1	Anatomy
CL	contact lens	3	Contact lenses
CLPC	contact lens associated papillary conjunctivitis	3	Contact lenses
CSF	contrast sensitivity function	2	Visual function
conv	convergence	3	Binocular Vision
CWS	Cotton wool spot(s)	3	Disease ocular
CF	count fingers (note: CF 20' (at 20 feet) 20/400); CF 6m (at 6 metres) 6/120); also central fixation	2	Visual function
CT	cover test, also computed tomography	3	Binocular Vision
CN	cranial nerve eg. CNIII	1	Anatomy
Xcyl	cross cyl	2	Optics
C/D	cup to disc ratio	1	Anatomy
cyclop (%)	cyclopentolate, % used	4	Treatment
Cyl	cylinder (also C when following D(ioptr))	1	Optics
CMO (CME)	cystic macular oedema (edema* American spelling)	3	Disease ocular
CMV	cytomegalovirus	2	Disease general
CW	continuous wear (of contact lenses)	4	Contact lenses
DW	daily wear	4	Contact lenses
DOB	date of birth	2	General
dB	decibel	2	General
↓	decrease in	1	General
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs	3	General
DM	diabetes mellitus	3	Disease general
DR	diabetic retinopathy	3	Disease ocular
Dx	diagnosis	1	Record keeping
DPA	diagnostic pharmaceutical agent	4	Record keeping
diam	diameter	4	Contact lenses
DFE	dilated fundus examination	4	Record keeping
D	dioptr	1	Optics
DC	dioptries cylinder	1	Optics
DS	dioptries sphere	1	Optics
DD	disc diameter	1	Anatomy
dist	distance	1	General
DV	distance vision	1	Visual function
gt	drop *this is for reference and not recommended or endorsed for use	4	Treatment
gtt or gutt	Drops (guttae) *this is for reference and not recommended or endorsed for use	4	Treatment
EF	eccentric fixation	4	Binocular Vision
ECG	electrocardiogram	2	Visual function
EEG	electroencephalogram	2	Visual function

EOG	electrooculogram	2	Visual function
ERG	electroretinogram	2	Visual function
ELISA	enzyme linked immunosorbent assay	2	General
ERM	epiretinal membrane	3	Disease ocular
EBMD	epithelial basement membrane dystrophy	3	Disease ocular
=	equals	1	General
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate	2	Disease general
EP	esophoria (previously SP was used)	3	Binocular Vision
ET	esotropia (preceded by R or L for right or left; previously ST)	3	Binocular Vision
etc	et cetera	1	General
Q (q)	every (eg. Q2H = every 2 hours)	4	Treatment
XP	exophoria	3	Binocular Vision
XT	exotropia (preceded by R or L for right or left)	3	Binocular Vision
XT	exotropia (preceded by R or L for right or left)	3	Binocular Vision
EW	extended wear	4	Contact lenses
Ext	external	1	General
ECCE	extracapsular cataract extraction	3	Disease ocular
EOM	extra-ocular muscles	1	Anatomy
fac	facility	3	Binocular Vision
FH	family history	2	Record keeping
FMH	family medical history	2	Record keeping
FOH	family ocular history	2	Record keeping
FaLant	Farnsworth Lantern (test)	2	Instruments
FM100	Farnsworth-Munsell 100 Hue (test)	2	Instruments
FD	fixation disparity	3	Binocular Vision
FI	fluorescein	2	Testing
FA	fluorescein angiography	3	Disease general
F/U	follow-up appointment	2	Treatment
FB	foreign body	2	Disease ocular
QID or qid	four times daily (or x4) (quarter in die)	4	Treatment
FAZ	foveal avascular zone	1	Anatomy
FOZD	front optic zone diameter	4	Contact lenses
FVP	front vertex power	2	Optics
fMRI	functional magnetic resonance imaging	2	Instruments
GI	gastrointestinal	1	Anatomy
GH	general health	4	Record keeping
GP	general practitioner	4	Record keeping
GPC	giant papillary conjunctivitis	3	Disease ocular
Glauc	glaucoma	2	Disease ocular
Gonio	gonioscopy	2	Instruments
>	greater than	1	General
Haem	haemorrhage	3	Disease ocular
HM	hand movements	3	Visual function
HA	headache	1	General
ht (seg)	height (segment)	2	Optics
HSV	herpes simplex virus	3	Disease general
Hx	history	2	Record keeping
HWLant	Holmes-Wright Lantern (test)	2	Instruments
hor	horizontal	1	General
⊕	horizontal and vertical orthophoria	3	Binocular Vision
⊖	horizontal orthophoria	3	Binocular Vision
HVID	horizontal visible iris diameter	1	Anatomy
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy	1	General
hr(s) or H	hour(s)	1	General
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus	2	Disease general
hyperP	hyperphoria	3	Binocular Vision
H/T or hbp	hypertension (high blood pressure)	2	Disease general
hyperT	hypertropia	3	Binocular Vision
hypoP	hypophoria	3	Binocular Vision
hypoT	hypotropia	3	Binocular Vision
↑	increase in	1	General
IO	indirect ophthalmoscopy	4	Instruments

inf	inferior	1	General
IO	inferior oblique muscle	1	Anatomy
IR	inferior rectus muscle (preceded by R or L for right or left)	1	Anatomy
R E(T) or Int R ET	intermittent right esotropia *previously ST was used but ST should be avoided and ET used instead, for consistency with other disciplines.	3	Binocular Vision
alt E(T) or Int alt ET	intermittent alternating esotropia *previously ST was used but ST should be avoided and ET used instead, for consistency with other disciplines.	3	Binocular Vision
INO	internuclear ophthalmoplegia	3	Disease ocular
PD	interpupillary distance	2	Optics
ICCE	intracapsular cataract extraction	3	Disease ocular
IOL	intraocular lens	1	Anatomy
IOP	intraocular pressure	1	Anatomy
IRMA	intra-retinal microvascular abnormalities	3	Disease ocular
IV	intravenous	3	General
ICE	irido-corneal-endothelial syndrome	3	Disease ocular
ION	ischaemic optic neuropathy	3	Disease ocular
KP	keratic precipitates	3	Disease ocular
KCS	keratoconjunctivitis sicca	3	Disease ocular
K	keratometry reading	4	Contact lenses
L/RFD	L/R fixation disparity	3	Binocular Vision
LR	lateral rectus muscle (preceded by R or L for right or left)	1	Anatomy
LHON	Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy	3	Disease ocular
L	left	1	General
L ET	left esotropia (constant, see also intermittent; previously L ST)	3	Binocular Vision
LE	left eye	1	General
OS	left eye (oculus sinister)	1	General
LHP	left hyperphoria	3	Binocular Vision
L/R ET	left/right esotropia (previously L/R ST)	3	Binocular Vision
L/R XT	left/right exotropia (constant, see also intermittent)	3	Binocular Vision
L/RHyperT	left/right hypertropia (constant, see also intermittent)	3	Binocular Vision
L/RHypoT	left/right hypotropia (constant, see also intermittent)	3	Binocular Vision
<	less than	1	General
LP	light perception (acuity) mark (+) or (-) in the quadrant tested	2	Visual function
LV	low vision	4	Low vision
LVA	low vision aids	4	Low vision
Mac	macula or macular	1	Anatomy
MR	Maddox rod	3	Binocular Vision
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging	3	General
Max	maximum	1	General
MR	medial rectus (preceded by R or L for right and left)	1	Anatomy
Meds	medications	4	History
MAF	monocular accommodative facility	3	Binocular Vision
Ma	Microaneurysm(s)	3	Disease ocular
Min	minimum; also minute(s) (also m)	1	General
MEM	monocular estimate method	3	Binocular Vision
MVA	motor vehicle accident	3	General
MS	multiple sclerosis	3	Disease general
Mx	management	4	Record keeping
N	near	1	General
NPA	near point of accommodation	2	Visual function
NPC	near point of convergence	3	Binocular Vision
Neg or -ve	negative	1	General
neovasc	neovascularisation	3	Disease ocular
NEW	nights (of) extended wear	4	Contact lenses
ND	neutral density filter	2	Optics
NMD	no movement detected (on cover test)	3	Binocular Vision
NVE	new vessels elsewhere (other than the disc)	3	Disease ocular
NVD	new vessels on the (optic) disc	3	Disease ocular
NVI	new vessels on the iris	3	Disease ocular
N/C	no charge	4	Record keeping

No I/S (POH)	no eye injuries/surgery	4	Record keeping
NLP	no light perception	2	Visual function
NCT	non-contact tonometer	4	Record keeping
NPDR	non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy preceded by minimal, mild, moderate or severe	3	Disease ocular
NTG	normal tension glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
N/A	not applicable (also NA)	1	General
NS	nuclear sclerosis	3	Disease ocular
Obj	objective	1	General
Occ.	Occupation	1	General
Occ	ointment *this is for reference and not recommended or endorsed for use	4	Treatment
qd	Once per day	4	Treatment
OAG	open angle glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
Oph	ophthalmoscopy	4	Record keeping
ON	optic nerve	3	Disease ocular
ONH	optic nerve head	1	Anatomy
OZD	optic zone diameter	4	Contact lenses
OCs	optical centres	2	Optics
OCT	optical coherence tomography	2	Instruments
OKN	optokinetic nystagmus	4	Contact lenses
ORTHO-K	orthokeratology	4	Contact lenses
OR	over refraction	4	Contact lenses
Dk/L	oxygen transmissibility of a contact lens	4	Contact lenses
PRP	pan-retinal photocoagulation	3	Disease ocular
PACT	prism alternating cover test e.g. PACT 15pd BI at near (uncommon use: PACT 10^BI FL where FL means left eye is fixing eye)	3	Binocular Vision
pd or ^	prism dioptres	3	Binocular Vision
Px	patient (elsewhere, Pt is also used)	1	Record keeping
PK	penetrating keratoplasty	3	Disease ocular
PALC	per age lenticular changes	3	Disease ocular
PL	perception of light	1	Visual function
PPA	peripapillary atrophy	1	Anatomy
PPM	persistent pupillary membrane	1	Anatomy
phaco	phacoemulsification	3	Disease ocular
PRK	photorefractive keratectomy	3	Disease ocular
PTK	phototherapeutic keratectomy	3	Disease ocular
PDS	pigment dispersion syndrome	3	Disease ocular
pilo	pilocarpine	3	Treatment
ping	pingueculae	3	Disease ocular
PH	pinhole	4	Record keeping
PHNI or NIPH	pinhole no improvement	4	Record keeping
PMMA	polymethyl methacrylate	4	Contact lenses
Pos	positive	1	General
PRC	positive relative convergence	3	Binocular Vision
post	posterior	1	General
PCC	posterior cortical cataract	3	Disease ocular
PSC or PSCC	posterior subcapsular cataract	3	Disease ocular
PVD	posterior vitreous detachment	3	Disease ocular
POST-OP	post-operative	3	General
PRE-OP	pre-operative	3	General
PPDR	preproliferative diabetic retinopathy	3	Disease ocular
Rx	refraction	4	Record keeping
Rx	(take) prescription	4	Record keeping
prev	previous	1	General
POH	previous ocular history	3	Disease ocular
POAG	primary open angle glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
PAL	progressive addition lenses	2	Optics
PDR	proliferative diabetic retinopathy	3	Disease ocular
PXF	pseudoexfoliation	3	Disease ocular
PES or PXF	pseudoexfoliation syndrome	3	Disease ocular

PXM	pseudoexfoliative material	3	Disease ocular
PIC	pseudoisochromatic	1	Visual function
pteryg	pterygium	3	Disease ocular
PERRLA	pupils equal, round, responsive to light and accommodation	4	Record keeping
RK	radial keratotomy	3	Disease ocular
RLLT	Railways LED Lantern Test	1	Instruments
RAPD	Relative afferent pupil defect	4	Record keeping
RD	retinal detachment	3	Disease ocular
RNFL	retinal nerve fibre layer	1	Anatomy
RPE	retinal pigment epithelium	1	Anatomy
RP	retinitis pigmentosa	3	Disease ocular
ROP	retinopathy of prematurity	3	Disease ocular
Ret	retinoscopy	4	Record keeping
R	right	1	General
RE	right eye	1	General
OD	right eye (oculus dexter)	1	General
VAR	right visual acuity (corrected)	4	Record keeping
RGP	rigid gas permeable	4	Contact lenses
SL	Schwalbe's line	1	Anatomy
SS	scleral spur	1	Anatomy
SOAG	secondary open angle glaucoma	3	Disease ocular
seg	segment	1	Anatomy
STI	sexually transmitted infection	1	General
SV	single vision (lenses)	2	Optics
SVD	single vision distance	2	Optics
SVN	single vision near	2	Optics
sl	slightly	1	General
S/L	slit lamp	4	Testing
SLE	slit-lamp examination	4	Testing
NaFl	sodium fluorescein	4	Testing
SCL	soft contact lens	4	Contact lenses
SM	spectacle magnification	2	Optics
Sph	sphere (also S after D(iopetre))	2	Optics
SCC	squamous cell carcinoma	2	Disease general
SD	standard deviation	1	General
SOP	Standard operating procedure (WH&S)	1	General
STRAB	strabismus	3	Binocular Vision
subj	subjective	4	Record keeping
SPK	superficial punctate keratitis	3	Disease ocular
SEAL	superior epithelial arcuate lesion	3	Disease ocular
SLK	superior limbic keratoconjunctivitis	3	Disease ocular
SO	superior oblique muscle (preceded by R or L for right or left)	1	Anatomy
SR	superior rectus (preceded by R or L for right or left)	1	Anatomy
SLE	systemic lupus erythematosus slit-lamp examination	3	Disease general Instruments
TBUT	tear break up time	4	Record keeping
tear/supps	tear supplements	3	Treatment
TPA	therapeutic pharmaceutical agent	4	Treatment
tds also TID	three times a day *these are for reference and not recommended or endorsed for use	4	Treatment
TM	trabecular meshwork	1	Anatomy
TIA	transient ischaemic attack	2	Disease general
Tx	treatment	4	Treatment
TF	tri-focals	2	Optics
Trop (%)	tropicamide (percentage used)	4	Record keeping
TTN	to the nose	3	Binocular Vision
Bid (also bd)	two times a day (bis in die) *these are for reference and not recommended or endorsed for use	3	Treatment
Type 1 DM / T1DM	Type 1 diabetes mellitus	3	Disease general
Type 2 DM / T2DM	Type 2 diabetes mellitus	3	Disease general
UV	ultraviolet	1	General
UCVA	uncorrected visual acuity	2	Visual function

URTI	upper respiratory tract infection	2	Disease general
V/H	van Herick	4	Testing
VA	visual acuity	1	Visual function
VB	venous beading	3	Disease general
verg	vergence	3	Binocular Vision
ver	vertical	1	General
⊖	vertical orthophoria	3	Binocular Vision
VPA	vertical palpebral aperture	1	Anatomy
V / Vis	vision	1	General
VA	visual acuity	1	General
VDU	visual display unit(s)	2	Visual function
VEP	visual evoked potential	2	Visual function
VER	visual evoked response	1	General
VF	visual field	2	Visual function
vis hyg	visual hygiene	2	Treatment
Vit	vitreous	1	Anatomy
wk(s)	week(s)	2	General
WNL	within normal limits	2	Record keeping
w/o	without	1	General
WTR	with-the-rule astigmatism	2	Optics
WD	working distance	2	Optics
W-4-D	Worth 4 dot	3	Binocular Vision
X/7	x days	2	General
X/12	x months	2	General
X/52	x weeks	2	General
y/o	year old	2	General
yr(s)	year(s)	1	General
YAG	Yttrium aluminium garnet (laser)	3	Instruments
0 symptoms	zero symptoms	2	Record keeping