

5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SCLERAL LENSES.



Family Vision

& CONTACT LENS CENTERS

Burlington
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Dr. Bowen

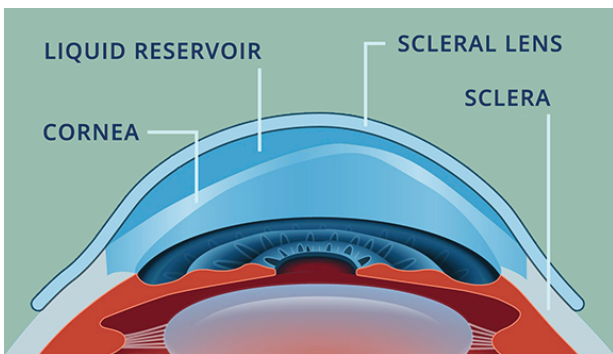
A GUIDE TO CUSTOM CONTACT LENS FITTINGS

What are scleral contact lenses?

Scleral contacts are large-diameter gas permeable contact lenses specially designed to vault over the entire corneal surface and rest their weight on the "white" of the eye (the sclera). In doing so, scleral lenses functionally replace the irregular cornea with a perfectly smooth optical surface to correct vision problems caused by keratoconus and other corneal irregularities. These lenses are effective for resolving vision-related issues secondary to irregular corneas, refractive errors and many other conditions.

Although large, scleral lenses are actually very comfortable.

First-time scleral lens users often worry that the lenses won't be comfortable, mostly because of their size and rigidity. Scleral contact lenses are noticeably larger than rigid standard gas permeable (GP) contacts and have a diameter equal to or greater than that of soft lenses.



But the honest truth is that sclerals are very comfortable. Scleral lenses are designed specifically based on the shape of the individual eye they are being fitted to. The lenses rest on the sclera, which is not nearly as sensitive as the cornea of your eye. Also, the large design stays tucked beneath the eyelids, so there's very little irritating movement. This makes scleral contact lenses surprisingly comfortable.

Scleral contacts work when other lenses don't.

Scleral lenses are useful to our Family Vision patients who can't seem to find a contact lens that works well with their vision issue. Because each scleral contact lens is custom-made for the patient, a great advantage to wearing scleral contact lenses is stability. The lenses sit very stable on the eye with minimal irritating movement as can be experienced with standard gas permeable lenses.

For those patients that suffer from dry eye, the fluid between the eye and lens keeps the cornea consistently moist, providing enhanced comfort and consistent vision.

Scleral contacts are not exorbitantly expensive.

One of the most commonly recited myths about scleral lenses is that they are much more expensive than standard soft lenses. Because the lenses must be fitted and customized to fit each individual eye, there is more work involved in prescribing scleral lenses, which many patients assume will lead to higher cost. Patients are often surprised to discover scleral lenses are not excessively expensive.

These lenses are often covered by insurance and, even when they aren't, they provide enough of an improvement over regular lenses — in both comfort and vision — that patients are happy to make the investment. What's more, if the lenses are adequately cleaned and maintained, their lifespan can far exceed that of any other type of lens.

Sclerals were the first contact lenses made.

Scleral contact lenses date back to the early 1880s and were first made from blown glass. Early scleral lenses were not oxygen permeable and became unhealthy for the cornea, which led to their disuse. With new digital processes for manufacturing custom contoured scleral lenses and advancements in breathable lens materials, there has been a recent resurgence in scleral lenses.

The benefits associated with scleral contact lenses make them a popular and satisfying choice for many patients looking for clear and comfortable vision. Don't overlook the advantages of scleral lenses; they are the highest level of technology available for patients today.

Schedule a consultation today!

262-763-0117

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Family Vision is accepting new patients.
We look forward to serving you!